

THE COMMONWEAL

The Official Journal of the SOCIALIST LEAGUE.

VOL. 6.—No. 221.

SATURDAY, APRIL 5, 1890.

WEEKLY; ONE PENNY.

NOTES ON NEWS.

THE great excitement of these last days, to wit, Mr. Balfour's Land Bill, will not excite Socialists, nor need they trouble their heads about the matter. On the face of it, it is a bill for raising the value of landlord's rents; but its real aim is to try to make the long-talked-out Irish question last a little longer as a piece of occupation for our "representatives" in the House of Commons, which may delude the people into thinking that the said representatives are doing something. It is hoped, in fact, that the nearly used-up football will still hold wind enough to bear a little more kicking.

All honest men, whether they call themselves Socialists or not, will applaud the jury at the Leeds Assizes who had the courage of their opinions, and refused to hand over our comrade Bingham to the tender mercies of Justice Grantham, who was quite prepared to show the world that it is a dangerous thing for even a well-to-do man to have any aspirations towards better conditions of life than the present; dangerous, that is to say, if he expresses those aspirations openly; and if he keeps them to himself—well, it is an old saying of the philosophers, that there is no difference between that which is not, and that which is not visible.

It may be too much to hope that this verdict is the token of the beginning of a new epoch in jury-work, in which juries will give verdicts according to their consciences (and according to their oaths, too, if that matters) in spite of the judge's summing-up. But it is a significant fact that the verdict in this case was loudly applauded in Court by the general public.

It seems unlikely that the Crewe lads will be executed. But if they are not to be hanged, which, as Wilkes said, is the worst use to which you can put a man, why should they be treated to the second worst way of using a man, to wit, putting him in prison? To give a long term of imprisonment to these unfortunate young men would be a mere cruel piece of subservience to the letter of the law. Our friend, Mr. Grant Allen, acting on this view, has been circulating a petition to the Home Secretary asking for a free pardon or at least a short term of imprisonment. Surely all those people, from the judge upwards, who were so "touched" in Court the other day, will agree to this.

W. M.

The Labour Conference at Berlin is over, and when all is said there is little wonder that the English press should be most patriotically proud of the fact that what has been done is little more than to generally recommend an imitation of England in the way of industrial legislation. Though they might very well remember that "he knew well that coals would burn that first invented fire-tongs," or, in other words, factory legislation came first in England because the factory-hell grew hot here sooner than elsewhere. And now, when the boasting is done about being ahead, they might begin to think of keeping so.

This from the Sydney *Bulletin* of February 22, looks as if religious philanthropists were the same everywhere:

"An ex-parson, some ex-black labour sympathisers, and the paid secretary of an employers' union, run what is left of the Brisbane 'London Dock Strike Fund.' Between them they have managed to keep £400 from going where it belongs, and, after every tuppenny-ha-penny local accident they try to bluff the crowd into giving the dockers' coin to some hospital ward or flooded-out village. These Banaland pull-backs have been kicking themselves since the big strike at having let the milk of human kindness ooze out of a pore or two that wasn't quite choked with filthy lucre. Probably it is to prevent any more oozing that they are now wallowing in a class-meanness. The money belongs to the London dockers and should go to them."

George Harrison was released on Friday, after serving two years, three months, and a fortnight of the four years' imprisonment to which he was sentenced after Bloody Sunday. He has come out with an arm crippled by a policeman's kick, and a constitution nearly destroyed

through the ill-treatment to which he has been subjected. Here is the story in his own words:

"It seemed a long and weary time since that day in November, '87, when the police fell on us we came over Westminster Bridge—I walking along in procession with the Progressives and the Blackfriars Club men. Somebody dropped a gas-pipe, and one of the police swore it was I hit him with it; and another fellow, when they got on to him with the staves, took his pocket-knife out on 'em, and stabbed somebody—he came and confessed it to me, and fully exonerated me to the committee of my club, when I was out on bail before my conviction, but it was no use getting two into trouble, and I knew the police meant having me anyway, innocent or not; they had been watching for a chance all day. So I said nothing about him—they would only have put us both in. Why, a policeman brought up an oyster-knife, and swore he saw me drop it. You see, the police knew me as a speaker and lecturer, and they'd warned me about holding meetings, so they were down on me, and besides, I was a witness against them in Blackwell's case."

He was first taken to Pentonville for a fortnight, then to Wormwood Scrubbs for nine months, after which he went to Chatham, where he remained until Friday. He says:

"I was very well treated at the first two places, but at Chatham it was different. I was treated very roughly there. Four times I was punished by solitary confinement in a horrible cell, and on every one of those occasions the punishment was unjustly given. They charged me with refusing to work when I was not able to work through my ill-health, and they charged me with talking when I was not. I cannot describe the terrors of those cells. The smell in them is horrible, and they are so cold, while the light is altogether insufficient. Whenever I came out of them after confinement I felt like a drunken man on regaining a better atmosphere; but if the change made me reel, as it did once or twice, I only got a clump aside the head."

One of those who interviewed him comments upon the "moderation" and the "absence of bitterness" with which he spoke of his wrongs. Well! he has shown already by his conduct that his heart is stouter than his tongue is long; he is no caterwauling weakling. But whether he himself does any of it or no, there will be a good deal of bitter thinking and strong speaking for many a long day to come about his case, which is but that of thousands of those who are not content with tyranny, and which will not be forgotten until it is not only atoned for but made impossible of re-perpetration.

S.

NEWS FROM NOWHERE:

OR,

AN EPOCH OF REST.

BEING SOME CHAPTERS FROM A UTOPIAN ROMANCE.

CHAP. X. (continued).—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

I SAID: "We have heard about London and the manufacturing districts and the ordinary towns: how about the villages?"

Said Hammond: "You must know that toward the end of the nineteenth century the villages were almost destroyed, unless where they became mere adjuncts to the manufacturing districts, or formed a sort of minor manufacturing districts themselves. Houses were allowed to fall into decay and actual ruin; trees were cut down for the sake of the few shillings which the poor sticks would fetch; the building became inexpressibly mean and hideous. Labour was scarce; but wages fell nevertheless. All the small country arts of life which once added to the little pleasures of country people were lost. The country produce which passed through the hands of the husbandmen never got so far as their mouths. Incredible shabbiness and niggardly pinching reigned over the fields and acres which, in spite of the rude and careless husbandry of the times, were so kind and bountiful. Had you any inkling of all this?"

"I have heard that it was so," said I; "but what followed?"

"The change," said Hammond, "which in these matters took place very early in our epoch, was most strangely rapid. People flocked into the country villages, and, so to say, flung themselves upon the freed land like a wild beast upon his prey; and in a very little time

the villages of England were more populous than they had been since the fourteenth century, and were still growing fast. Of course, this invasion of the country was awkward to deal with, and would have created much misery, if the folk had still been under the bondage of class monopoly. But as it was, things soon righted themselves. People found out what they were fit for, and gave up attempting to push themselves into occupations in which they must needs fail. The town invaded the country; but the invaders, like the warlike invaders of early days, yielded to the influence of their surroundings, and became country people; and in their turn, as they became more numerous than the townsmen, influenced them also; so that the difference between town and country grew less and less; and it was indeed this world of the country vivified by the thought and briskness of town-bred folk which has produced that happy and leisurely but eager life of which you have had a first taste. Again I say, many blunders were made, but we have had time to set them right. Much was left for the men of my earlier life to deal with. The crude ideas of the first half of the twentieth century, when men were still oppressed by the fear of poverty, and did not look enough to the present pleasure of ordinary daily life, spoilt a great deal of what the commercial age had left us of external beauty: and I admit that it was but slowly that men recovered from the injuries that they inflicted on themselves even after they became free. But slowly as the recovery came, it *did* come; and the more you see of us, the clearer it will be to you that we are happy. That we live amidst beauty without any fear of becoming effeminate; that we have plenty to do, and on the whole enjoy doing it. What more can we ask of life?"

He paused, as if he were seeking for words with which to express his thought. Then he said:

"This is how we stand. England was once a country of clearings amongst the woods and wastes, with a few towns interspersed, which were fortresses for the feudal army, markets for the folk, gathering-places for the craftsmen. It then became a country of huge and foul workshops and fouler gambling-dens, surrounded by an ill-kept, poverty-stricken farm pillaged by the masters of the workshops. It is now a garden, where nothing is wasted and nothing is spoilt, with the necessary dwellings, sheds, and workshops scattered up and down the country, all trim and neat and pretty. For, indeed, we should be too much ashamed of ourselves if we allowed the making of goods, even on a large scale, to carry with it the appearance even of desolation and misery. Why, my friend, those housewives we were talking of just now would teach us better than that."

Said I: "This side of your change is certainly for the better. But though I shall soon see some of these villages, tell me in a word or two what they are like, just to prepare me."

"Perhaps," said he, "you have seen a tolerable picture of these villages as they were before the end of the nineteenth century. Such things exist."

"I have seen several of such pictures," said I.

"Well," said Hammond, "our villages are something like the best of such places, with the church or mote-house of the neighbours for their chief building. Only note that there are no tokens of poverty about them: no tumble-down picturesque; which, to tell you the truth, the artist usually availed himself of to veil his incapacity for drawing architecture. Such things do not please us, even when they indicate no misery. Like the mediævals, we like everything trim and clean, and orderly and bright; as people always do when they have any sense of architectural power; because then they know that they can have what they want, and they won't stand any nonsense from Nature in their dealings with her."

"Besides the villages, are there any scattered country houses?" said I.

"Yes, plenty," said Hammond; "in fact, except in the wastes and forests and amongst the sand-hills (like Hindhead in Surrey), it is not easy to be out of sight of a house; and where the houses are thinly scattered they run large, and are more like the old colleges than ordinary houses as they used to be. That is done for the sake of society, for a good many people can dwell in such houses, as the country dwellers are not necessarily husbandmen; though they almost all help in such work at times. The life that goes on in these big dwellings in the country is very pleasant, especially as some of the most studious men of our time live in them, and altogether there is a great variety of mind and mood to be found in them which brightens and quickens the society there."

"I am rather surprised," said I, "by all this, for it seems to me that after all the country must be tolerably populous."

"Certainly," said he; "the population is pretty much the same as it was at the end of the nineteenth century; we have spread it, that is all. Of course, also, we have helped to populate other countries—where we were wanted and were called for."

Said I: "One thing, it seems to me, does not go with your word of 'garden' for the country. You have spoken of wastes and forests, and I myself have seen the beginning of your Middlesex and Essex forest. Why do you keep such things in a garden? and isn't it very wasteful to do so?"

"My friend," he said, "we like these pieces of wild nature, and can afford them, so we have them; let alone that as to the forests, we need a great deal of timber and suppose that our sons and sons' sons will do the like. As to the land being a garden, I have heard that they used to have shrubberies and rockeries in gardens once; and though I might not like the artificial ones, I assure you that some of the natural rockeries of our garden are worth seeing. Go north this summer and look at the Cumberland and Westmoreland ones,—where,

by the way, you will see some sheep feeding, so they are not so wasteful as you think; not so wasteful as forcing grounds for fruit out of season, I think. Go and have a look at the sheep-walks high up the slopes between Ingleborough and Pen-y-gwent, and tell me if you think we waste the land there by not covering it with factories for making things that nobody wants, which was the chief business of the nineteenth century."

"I will try to go there," said I.

"It won't take much trying," said he.

WILLIAM MORRIS.

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

NOTES FROM NOTTINGHAM.

THE pleasure-house of the rich, the prison of the poor—such is this manufacturing centre of ours. All the sensual delights that are to the bourgeoisie the only relief from the *ennui* which follows the cares of money-getting, are here in abundance; and down in the slums—Narrowmarsh, with its dingy lodging-houses and narrow courts; the Meadow Platts, with their gloomy streets of back-to-back houses—the poor are penned in grime, squalor, and density. Perhaps no manufacturing town has fairer skies and less of the inky blackness with which capitalism elsewhere defiles the heavens, but the struggle of the worker against the plunderer is as hopeless here as amid the smoke of London or Sheffield. In what are called "good times," a proportion of the twist hands earn what are regarded as high wages, but to them there soon comes the cycle of depression when they are either unemployed or only gain a few shillings a week, and all the while the less skilled workers, and, above all, the hundreds of young women, who are employed in the finishing, patterning, bleaching, and dyeing of the lace, work long hours for low wages.

The workers, one hears, are wasteful and extravagant, and if so, they follow only too well the example of their masters in pursuing the will-o'-the-wisp of gambling, which has stricken this fair city as the Black Death smote mediæval Europe. An ex-bricklayer, who left that honest calling to turn bookmaker, and with his gains in that nefarious pursuit amassed more by running a brewery, is not a high example to hold up for a town's guidance; and yet the parsons and the fuglemen of capitalism generally have given this venerated bricklayer high municipal honour, and his great wealth has enabled him by his "charity" to buy much momentary popularity with the unthinking. The "abstinence" in virtue of which the capitalist holds the worker in chains, is aptly illustrated by the little villas in which the *cocotte* enjoys a luxury that the honest working-woman is a stranger to. The Corporation, packed with friends of Ireland and of Home Rule, sends its police clothing to be made in sweater's shops, and has erected a University College which for jerry-building can beat any suburban villa; the School Board, which underpays its assistant teachers and builds its educational system on their bodies as it were; the Board of Guardians, full of publicans and small tradesmen, notoriously selected by judicious manipulation of the voting papers, who put skilled artisans when unemployed to stone-breaking, and build palatial offices and a snugly-cushioned board-room for their own accommodation—these are our rulers. The Liberal party, as a rule, hold the control of local administration, and any sort of sweater is swallowed by the wire-pullers provided he bears the regulation trade-mark.

Amid a population sweated, overworked, and depressed in bad times, and corrupted and demoralised in good, the progress of the Socialist propaganda is necessarily slow. At the hearing of an election petition a month ago it was proved that dozens of voters were bought for a shilling a-piece; and while our Socialist comrades have to struggle with apathy on the part of the workers, the basest slanders and the most unscrupulous wire-pulling have been exerted on behalf of the "classes." For eight years, however, the sacred flame of Socialism has been kept alight, and though discouraged at times some few workers have laboured at the cleansing of the Augean stables of profit-mongering rule. Local elections have been fought as a means of propaganda, and comrades Peacock, Proctor, and Whalley have again and again led the assault, which has again and again proved a forlorn hope. Every Sunday in the summer open-air meetings have been held, and of late the party have secured a convenient hall near the centre of the town for lectures, etc. Comrades Sparling, Carpenter, and others, have already visited us, and the unskilled labour movement found in this room an asylum and in comrade Proctor a mentor, when official trades unionism of the Broadhurst kidney (the prevailing species) looked askance at it.

Much has been done, but much remains, and we are looking forward to the coming visit of the Socialists of the Midlands on the last Sunday in June to give the movement here an impetus that it sadly needs. After a day's pleasure the comrades from surrounding towns propose to help us in holding a great demonstration in the Market Place, when "the blood-red banner that our masters fear to see" will be a sign to the observant that the chariot-wheels of Socialism are rolling on. Next time I write I propose to deal with some of our masters and their peculiarities.

P.

At a public meeting of women, held at Adelaide the last week in January, it was decided to form a Women's Trade Union.

Soft coal in the neighbourhood of Pittsfield is worth 2 cents a bushel, and in Kansas City 22 cents a bushel, while corn in Kansas City is worth 10 cents a bushel and 70 cents in Pennsylvania. Can the "middle-man" between the two consumers be much less than a highwayman?—*Boston Globe*.

MURDER BY LAW.

A FEW days ago, two brothers, aged respectively 29 and 39, were legally strangled in Worcester Gaol for the murder of a game-keeper in the employ of the royalist *émigré*, the Duc d'Aumale. Three human lives sacrificed in order that a royalist duke may preserve game; three more added to the holocaust of those who have suffered in the hulks, the prison, and on the scaffold, in order that an infamous gang of land thieves, who richly deserve to have the hempen ring around their own necks, may enjoy the pleasures of the battue.

"O my poor wife and children!" groaned these wretched men together as they prepared to die. When will the fierce Chartist motto, "For children and wife we will war to the knife!" be taken up again by the working masses of the country? How long will they allow a horde of aristocratic thieves to monopolise the common birthright, land, and all its products, against the rest of the community?

"Do you justify the murder of the gamekeeper?" queries the average Briton in horror, "what about *his* wife and children?" I maintain that all were murdered by the horrible system of land monopoly; the victims of the game laws in the country, the overcrowded who die of disease and want in our great towns, the evicted Irish peasants and Scotch crofters, those who have perished of famine on the waysides, and even those whose lives have been taken in reprisal as in Ireland, all those who have gone down in emigrant ships. All are victims of a system which is ripe for destruction.

Its basis and strength does not lie in the legal parchments, whether title-deeds or landlord-made enactments, which give legal sanction to the monstrous wrong of private property in land; nor in the soldier's bayonet or policeman's bâton, ready to defend the wrong; but it lies in the moral purblindness of the mass of the English workers. The spectacle of men, women, and children pitilessly thrust out from their homes in Ireland or Scotland does not affect the average English worker. The earth-hunger of the Celt, his aversion to pay blackmail in the shape of rent to a land thief, is to the "respectable" *British* "artisan" a ridiculous weakness which he unhesitatingly condemns; he has been so long divorced from the soil and its health-giving life that he has lost all vigour of view and action; he is artificialised. The huge town with its smoke and grime, its ever-extending arms swallowing up every green spot around, the blackened and blasted tracts of country where blast-furnaces flourish and Nature wilts and dies, are to him signs of greatness; and as a wage-slave, often foredoomed to the workhouse himself, he squirms of the "earth earthy" amidst the narrow courts of the town. If the tragedy of his own life will not awaken him, such a cruel tragedy as that just consummated in Worcester is scarcely likely to do so.

I have said that the present system and its most glaring iniquity, land monopoly, is not maintained so much by the physical force at its back as it is by the moral sanction it receives from even the victims it crushes. "Wouldn't you do it yourself if you had the chance?" is the reply given to the Socialist agitator when he points out the injustice of the present system. A percentage of the possessing classes are well aware of this narrowness of view, and are actively seeking at the present time, in conjunction with renegade Socialists, to utilise it for the conservation of their privileges. They will give barrack dwellings in the towns, they will even consent to concessions being given to the aristocracy of labour, but they *will* not give up the land. This unnatural alliance bore fruit recently, when we found a professedly labour organ, edited by a somewhat champion of Socialism, defending those implicated in the Cleveland Street abominations.

Some of the hotter and younger amongst us, disheartened at what appears to be a hopeless task, sickened by the lumpish apathy and selfishness of those they are trying to awaken, either give up in despair or dream of more forceful methods of agitation. As Kropotkin says in his "Appeal to the Young," they dream of barricades and heroic deeds: a short, sharp conflict, and then victory. To such, the slow undermining of the system seems too slow and unprofitable a task; and so we have the kaleidoscopic sections which are still a feature of Socialism in England. As well prepared and willing as any to make reprisals should there be a determined effort on the part of the "haves" to suppress the murmurings of the "have nots," or of those who voice their claims. I still contend that in agitation and education, that shall awaken the masses to a higher conception of life as opposed to mere existence, and that in preaching the gospel of discontent where filth and poverty prevail instead of beauty and plenty, lays our chief chance of success. If this were not so why do the monopolists fear free speech or subsidise the press? They create one class of opinion; we create another by agitation, by preaching unselfishness against selfishness. We have seen virgin lands bear the same crop of evils which beset us here, not because of force, but because the hearts of the pioneers contained the germs of injustice of man to man. Let us preach community of interests as the watchword of all, so that when our heritage falls to us there shall be none to undo our work and re-shackle our limbs. The beating of drums and the waving of flags are not necessary to this work, but heartfelt enthusiasm, steady work, persistent attack both on the enemy's position, and its props that I have indicated amongst our own ranks, and the result will be Victory.

F. KIRTZ.

The Queensland shearers have added 940 members to their roll last year, making a grand total of 2,907. The balance at their bankers has also increased by nearly £300, making a cash balance of £2,104.

INTERNATIONAL NOTES.

GERMANY.

LUBECK, March 31.—The movement among the timber workmen here for an increase of wages resulted to-day in the discharge of 600 men. The masters had agreed to grant the increase demanded, but requested "toleration" for non-members of the Woodcutters' Union, which, however, the union men refused. Work at the great timber yards and saw mills is almost at a standstill, and the rats are being guarded by police.

BELGIUM.

CHARLEROI, March 31.—A strike agitation is going on in some parts of this district. In several collieries the miners claim an increase of 15 per cent. in wages, and the demand has been put before the owners of the pits in the form of an ultimatum from the Labour Leagues.

SPAIN.

The strikes in Catalonia are assuming a serious aspect. On Friday, 6,000 men paraded the streets and suburbs of Barcelona, and tried to persuade the workmen of many factories to leave work. Large bands of women also paraded the streets, headed by a delegate of the Federation of Workmen. In Barcelona and other towns of Catalonia the number of men actually out is 40,000, and it is thought that the figure will soon be increased to 50,000, and that all the factories in Catalonia will be obliged to close. The movement has spread to Badalona, Martin, and Provençals, and in the last-mentioned district there is an Anarchist element among the strikers. Numerous deputations from the men have waited on the masters to try and arrive at a settlement, but hitherto without result. The strikers have posted men at some factories in order to prevent rats from continuing work. A large number of meetings were held by the strikers on Sunday, with a view to agreeing upon a common plan of action. The Civil Governor of Barcelona convened a meeting of the manufacturers of Mauresa at ten o'clock on Sunday night in order to try and put an end to the conflict. Several interviews have also taken place between the Mauresa manufacturers and their hands, and it is reported that the masters in both cases refused to re-open their workshops.

RUSSIA.

The latest news from St. Petersburg shows that the original cause of the student disturbances in Moscow is the indignation felt at the treatment of the political prisoners in Siberia. The Moscow students protested in an unmistakable manner against the cruel proceedings of the authorities, and the fear that the public might approve and participate in the demonstrations was the cause of the University being closed immediately. The letter of Marie Tschebrikova, which was secretly printed and distributed among the students in spite of police spies, had a good deal to do with the movement. The students of St. Petersburg, Charkoff, and Kasan followed the example of their Moscow friends. The revolutionary movement is showing itself more clearly every day. The only universities which are exempted from it are those of Dorpat and Tomsk. All the others have been the scenes of "disturbances." The students of all the faculties in Charkoff, Kieff, Odessa, Moscow, and St. Petersburg have made demonstrations in favour of a constitutional form of government. More than eight hundred have been arrested. The universities are watched day and night by detachments of police. For the present the garrisons of the university towns are confined to barracks, and it is probable that all the universities will be closed. Pamphlets have been distributed in which the autocracy of the Czar is denounced, and freedom of speech, religion, and the press is demanded. "Great anxiety" is felt by the guardians of order with regard to the future, the revolutionary movement having assumed incredible proportions during recent weeks. A period of convulsions and agitation is anticipated. The Czar has been releasing military prisoners, and "pardoning" Madame Tschebrikova as a precaution, but his other acts are more than neutralising these. The Imperial prohibition against solemnising the anniversary of the abolition of servitude produced a very bad impression, as it showed clearly in what light the Czar views the one good deed of his predecessor. S.

ITALY.

MILAN.—In the cultivated and wealthy town of Milan, as in the rest of Italy, the labour crisis continues, the mechanics and masons being those who feel it the most. Meanwhile, the contractors still give their work to hands from Novara, who consent to take a lower wage than the natives. The Milanese are protesting against this, but in vain, owing to the thorough disorganisation of the workers, who are thus at the mercy of speculators.

On the 30th ult., the delegates of labour associations will meet to endorse the final project of the Labour Exchange, which will then be at once presented to the municipality.

GERMIGNAGNA (near Como).—Last week, 300 women employed in a factory here, after uselessly demanding a working-day of 12 hours, have declared themselves on strike. The director immediately gave way and work was resumed. The women had previously worked 14 hours a day.

SAVONA.—The *Fascio dei Lavoratori*, a branch of the Italian Labour Party, has recently been reconstituted here, and the members expect to work it up into an active and influential body. M. M.

DENMARK.

The manifesto of the revolutionary Socialists in Denmark lays particular stress on the point that "concentration of industries into large concerns is in harmony with our evolution, when on the contrary small industries (home industries, etc.) are the *raison d'être* of the middle-class, and therefore reactionary." This statement may be objected to on general theoretical grounds (though it is a plausible generalisation itself), but it is certainly appropriate as a protest against the people of *Social Demokratien*, who simply bribe the small peasants and artisan with promises of petty reforms in their favour in order to get their votes for Social Democratic candidates for Parliament. The manifesto goes on to say: "We must, therefore, try to exterminate all false ideas as to the possibility of achieving fundamental improvements for the working-classes through legislation, and we must out that legislation as well as electioneering principally, must be looked upon as a means of agitation, and that any alliance with middle-class parties ought to be broken off, just because all middle-class parties have an interest in defending the foundation of the present society—private ownership in land and other means of production." This statement is important, and the Socialistic cause will certainly have advanced a great step when all Socialists of all countries are unanimous in letting this principle, or another principle bearing on the same point, guide their agitation and action. STR.



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

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

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

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

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

SUBSCRIPTIONS, including postage:—For British Islands, Europe, United States, and Canada, a year, 6s.; six months, 3s.; three months, 1s. 6d. For Australia, New Zealand, Cape of Good Hope, Natal, Transvaal, and the Argentine Republic, a year, 8s.; six months, 4s.; three months, 2s. For India, Ceylon, China, Hong Kong, and the Straits Settlements, a year, 10s.; six months, 5s.; three months, 2s. 6d.

Subscribers who receive a RED WRAPPER are thereby reminded that their subscriptions have expired and must be renewed immediately if they wish to continue to receive COMMONWEAL.

SPECIAL RECRUIT SUBSCRIPTIONS.—To aid in spreading our principles, the following largely reduced terms are offered to those who obtain new subscribers: Two new yearly subscriptions for British Islands, etc., 10s. 6d.; for Australia, etc., 15s.; for India, etc., 19s. Five new subscriptions: For British Islands, etc., 25s.; for Australia, etc., 37s. 6d.; for India, etc., 47s. 6d. Specimen copies will be sent on receipt of postage.

Remittances from abroad must be made by International Money Order.

CONTENTS.

Notes on News	MORRIS and SPARLING	105
News from Nowhere; or, an Epoch of Rest (continued) ..	WILLIAM MORRIS	105
Notes from Nottingham	P.	106
Murder by Law	F. KITZ	107
International Notes	S., M. M., and STN.	107
The Labour Movement	J. SKETCHLEY	108
Correspondence		109
Too Late!	LAURA LAFARGUE	109
Australian Labour Federation		109
The Labour Struggle	D. J. NICOLL	110
Executive Announcements, Reports, Lecture Diary, and Notices of Meetings ..		111
Statement of Principles, Advertisements, etc.		112

Periodicals received during the week ending Wednesday April 2.

ENGLAND	Pittsburg—Arbeiter-Zeitung	SWITZERLAND
Brotherhood	San Francisco Arbeiter Zeitung	Arbeiterstimme
Church Reformer	St. Louis (Mo.)—Die Parole	
London—Freie Presse	Anarchist	ITALY
Norwich—Daylight	San Diego—Califor. Nationalist	Milan—Il Fascio Operaio
Sozial Demokrat		Rome—L'Emancipazione
Seafaring	FRANCE	
Worker's Friend	Paris—La Revolte	SPAIN
	Paris—Bourse du Travail	Madrid—El Socialista
INDIA	Le Proletariat	GERMANY
Bankipore—Behar Herald	Charleville—L'Emancipation	Berlin—Volks Tribune
	Lille—Le Cri du Travailleur	AUSTRIA
UNITED STATES	Rouen—Le Salariat	Brunn—Volksfreund
New York—Der Sozialist		Trieste—Confeder. Operaia
Volkzeitung	HOLLAND	
Workmen's Advocate	Hague—Recht voor Allen	HUNGARY
Investigator	Middelburg, Lichten Wahrheid	Arbeiter-Wochen-Chronik
Buffalo—Arbeiter-Zeitung		DENMARK
Chicago—Knights of Labour	BELGIUM	Copenhagen—Arbejderen
Vorbote	Antwerp—De Werker	ARGENTINE REPUBLIC
Detroit—Der Arme Teufel	Ghent—Vooruit	Buenos Ayres—Vorwärts
Philadelphia—United Labour		

THE LABOUR MOVEMENT.

WHEN the present Labour agitation arose, apparently so spontaneously, and such determination was shown by tens of thousands of the unskilled workers, what hopes were raised throughout the country! Everywhere the hope was expressed that this movement would not be like the labour agitations of the past, that its essential character would be Socialistic, and that as many of its leaders were professed Socialists, their chief aim would be to so organise and educate the workers as to terminate for ever the war between capital and labour; to terminate for ever the war of classes by the triumph of labour and the supremacy of the wealth-producing millions. If the present movement is to aim at nothing higher than a paltry amelioration of the condition of the working-class while the good trade continues, at nothing more than a mere modification of the tyranny and oppression under which the workers groan, then the movement will become only a farce, a failure, and will leave the workers just where they are to-day.

When we bear in mind that in England this war between capital and labour has gone on for centuries, and that the first Act against trade organisations dates from the year 1548, we may well ask, Is this war to last for ever? In the preamble to that Act we read that "Whereas artificers, handicraftsmen, and labourers have made confederacies and promises, and have sworn mutual oaths, not only that they should not meddle with one another's work, and perform and finish what another hath begun, but also to constitute and appoint how much work they shall do in a day, and what hours and times they shall work, contrary to the laws and statutes of this realm, and to the great hurt and impoverishment of his Majesty's subjects." And this nearly three centuries and a-half ago! How far have trade organisations advanced since that period in their aims and objects? We boast that we learn wisdom by experience. Where is the wisdom we display to-day after the sad experience of centuries? True, in organising the workers so as to control the new labour movement, you are bound to combat existing evils, and to seek to ameliorate their condition; but let us not forget that those evils are incidental to the present system, and that you cannot abolish the evils while you retain the system. Organise the workers by all means, and improve their position as far as possible under existing conditions, but let their organisations be the means by which to educate them for a grander future, the destruction of those conditions which render liberty, dignity, and independence are impossible.

Nor have trade societies, either in the past or at the present, been able to move the great mass of the workers. Taking the Board of Trade report for 1889, we find 104 societies sent in their returns during 1888, the number of their members being 373,904. Suppose we take their total number at 800,000, how small a proportion of the workers they contain! The societies of 10,000 and upwards who reported in 1888 may almost be counted on your fingers. Take the following list:

	No.
Amalgamated Society of Engineers	53,740
Durham Miners' Association	38,000
United Society of Boiler Makers and Iron Shipbuilders ..	26,545
Amalgamated Society of Carpenters and Joiners	25,050
Amalgamated Association of Operative Cotton Spinners ..	16,910
Amalgamated Society of Tailors	14,214
Operative Stonemason's Friendly Society	10,261
National Union of Boot and Shoe Rivetters and Finishers	11,410
Friendly Society of Iron Founders	12,202
Northumberland Miners' Association	12,456
Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants	12,080
Blackburn and District Power Loom Weavers' Association	10,500

In pointing to these facts I am only pointing to the small number of the workers embraced by present organisations, and as showing the vast field there is for a greater and a grander organisation of workers than has ever yet been attempted.

Again, the diffusion of knowledge and the progress of our powers of production tend rapidly to break down the main differences between the skilled and the unskilled workers. And who can tell how long or how short will be the duration of the present good trade. Another and a more terrible depression will come; and when it comes what will again be the condition of even the great societies? Go back to 1879, when the Amalgamated Society of Engineers, with an income of £135,267, paid to their unemployed alone £149,931. Come down to 1886, when that society paid to its unemployed £86,460, and the other large societies paid in proportion. Trade unionists, too, ought to remember that England is not now the ruler of the waves, nor the mistress of the markets of the world. All the nations of the earth are becoming more and more independent of England. The telegraph has destroyed for ever the supremacy of England as the centre of commercial intelligence; and the international character of our modern commercial system has made equally international all our great financial operations.

Look at the trade of the world to-day. Is England still supreme? Does she control the trade of the world? Let the following items for 1887 answer:

	Total Imports.	From England.	From other Countries.
Russia	£39,321,000	£5,858,849	£33,462,151
Germany	230,100,000	27,316,544	202,783,456
Belgium	116,266,000	13,140,582	103,125,418
France	197,708,000	20,495,730	177,212,270
Holland	94,457,000	15,037,525	79,419,475
U.S.A.	144,233,000	40,240,150	103,992,850

Now take the exports of these States:

	Exports.	To England.	To other Countries.
Russia	£62,295,000	£9,683,388	£52,611,612
Germany	231,235,000	24,563,536	206,671,464
Belgium	108,612,000	14,732,663	93,879,337
France	169,528,000	38,855,296	130,672,704
Holland	94,457,000	25,327,277	57,299,723
U.S.A.	149,204,000	83,049,074	66,154,926

Here we see the trade of the world fast leaving England. It is already beyond her control. These are matters of the highest importance to the workers. They are facts we must not forget. And if we turn to our colonies and possessions, it is the same. For instance, in 1888 the total imports of Australia were 65 millions and odd. From England 30 millions and odd, and other countries, 35 millions and odd. Take North America; out of a total of over 24 millions, she took from us 8 millions and odd. Look at the matter how we will, or take our facts from what part of the world we may, the one inevitable conclusion

is, that England's supremacy as a commercial nation is a thing of the past.

But there is another matter we must not lose sight of—viz., the foreign investments of British capital. These are matters which the workers cannot afford to ignore. In 1882 the total British investments were £3,494,000,000, and in 1888 £5,786,215,000; an increase of £2,295,215,000. Out of that £2,295,000,000, only £320,373,000 were invested at home. £1,974,842,000 were invested in foreign regions. While the investments at home average only £53,387,000 per annum, our foreign investments average over £328,000,000 per annum. Let the workers and their leaders think of these things. What do they indicate? They are the writing on the wall. Let the workers read and reflect.

Can the trades unions continue to fight on the old lines? Are the circumstances to-day the same as they were forty or fifty years ago? Take your joint-stock companies, your great limited liability companies, your gigantic rings and syndicates, and the federations of employers. I am glad that a federation of all the trades connected with the engineering and shipbuilding industries is about to take place. It is absolutely necessary in face of the great federation of the employers. But it is the millions that want organising, and educating, with a national federation. That is the great want to-day.

Keep in mind, too, the immense increase in the powers of production in every commercial nation, with the general spread of education, and then ask yourselves the question—Can you still fight on the old lines? But suppose it were possible, are we never to learn wisdom? are we never to advance? Is this struggle of ages still to go on? Is this war of classes never to terminate? Are the slavery, and the misery, and the degradation of the workers to be eternal? Are the men of so-called moderate views—the political tricksters, the social tinkers, the miserable creatures who can never rise to the height of a great principle,—are these to be still the leaders of the wealth-producing millions? If yes, whose fault will it be? If yes, who will be responsible? But no! The days of ever rampant tyranny are numbered. The tyrannies and the oppressions inseparable from our present system will end, and this war of classes will terminate. Yes; and the governments of the world, whether imperial or aristocratic, will not long preserve the present system. All the tyranny of the capitalist classes will not for long keep the people in bondage; and all the empty nonsense of incapables will not for long mislead the masses. Organise and educate the millions for the social revolution. There only is the emancipation of labour, the regeneration of society, possible. That alone will bring to the toiling millions liberty, dignity, and independence.

J. SKETCHLEY.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE SHOP ASSISTANTS' UNION.—AN APPEAL TO WORKING WOMEN.

I daresay most of the readers of the *Weal* are aware that this new union is making itself heard in Hammersmith and elsewhere. The object of this union is to shorten the hours of labour on one day, Thursday being the usual day, the time for shutting up shop being 5 o'clock; but now comes the tug of war, and that is the women will block the way and retard this very small amount of leisure and pleasure that this union is trying to obtain for the assistants. If the women are not appealed to at every meeting all over the country by our various speakers not to shop after 5 o'clock on Thursday and Saturday nights, I think two or three hours might very easily be curtailed. If the speakers at the meetings would emphatically appeal to the women not to shop at any and every hour of the night almost, as this is the fundamental point of the whole movement. I would also ask every workman on Saturdays after he has been paid, at 12 or 2 o'clock as the case may be, to return home a little earlier so that the missus can do her marketing sooner, and enable the shop assistants to arrive home before the first hour of Sunday morning. Trusting that all my unionist friends will co-operate with the above, I am, yours fraternally,

F. HERVE.

THE CHRISTIAN PIONEER.

Dear Sir,—I read with much interest the article on "The Christian Pioneer" in last week's *Commonweal*. Would it not be possible for members of the League, in conjunction with other Socialist societies, to organise a demonstration, say in Hyde Park, to protest in the name of the workers of London against granting of honours to such "Christian" freebooters as Stanley? No doubt there are many who would be willing to assist.—I am, yours very truly,

W. H. BROWN.

26, The Avenue, Brixton, S.W., March 31st, 1890.

The Napier (N.Z.) Branch of the Federated Wharf Labourers Union numbered 257 members on Feb. 1.

The Queensland Central Labourers' Union was formed at Saltern Creek 18 months ago. Last year 2,400 new members joined.

In Northern Mexico labourers get 37½ cents a-day. In Southern Mexico it is too hot to work more than from three to five hours, and 1 dollar is paid.

Fifty honorary members, and about 500 working members, had been enrolled up to the end of January in the newly-formed Thames (N.Z.) Branch of the Amalgamated Miners' Association of Australasia.

There is a row in the camp of the Adelaide Land Nationalists. They are broken up into two parties, the "Single-tax League" and the "Taxation Reform League," and from appearances they will run against each other at the coming elections.

Last half-year the Broken Hill Proprietary silver mine (N.S.W.) disbursed in dividends £368,000, besides spending nearly £43,000 in machinery, etc. The dividend has now been increased to £80,000 per month, and will shortly be raised still further. Wages remain about the same—starvation.

TOO LATE!

MOTHER, ah mother, hungry am I,
Give me bread or I must die!
Tarry a while, my little son,
To-morrow shall see the sowing done!

And after they had sown the corn,
Still the child cried out night and morn:
Mother, ah mother, hungry am I,
Give me bread or I must die!
Tarry a while, my little son,
To-morrow shall see the harvesting done!

And when they had harvested the corn,
Still the child cried out night and morn:
Mother, ah mother, hungry am I,
Give me bread, or I must die!
Tarry a while, my little son,
To-morrow shall see the thrashing done!

And after they had thrashed the corn,
Still the child cried out night and morn:
Mother, ah mother, hungry am I,
Give me bread or I must die!
Tarry a while, my little son,
To-morrow shall see the grinding done!

And after they had ground the corn,
Still the child cried out night and morn:
Mother, ah mother, hungry am I,
Give me bread or I must die!
Tarry a while, my little son,
To-morrow shall see the baking done!

And when they had done baking the bread,
There on the bier the child lay dead.

LAURA LAFARGUE.

AUSTRALIAN LABOUR FEDERATION.

THE first report of the council of the Australian Labour Federation, addressed to the members of the affiliated unions, shows a record of seven months of practical work. Recognising that it is only by means of organisation that Labour can win that standard of political and social recognition to which it is entitled, the council have used their energies mainly in that direction. The London dock-strike is referred to as having given an impetus to the work of union by showing how one body of workers can help another, and how hopeless it is for labour to expect to secure a fair share of the products of industry so long as the labourers remain so many units—every man fighting for his own hand. "We know," continues the report, "that hitherto labour has been only partially organised when organised at all, and that its operations towards amelioration have been sporadic; but there is some reason for believing that a new industrial era has dawned, and that the light thereof is growing." The General Labourers, the Brisbane Cordwainers, the Brisbane and Suburban Shop Assistants, the Early Closing Association, the Federated Wharf Labourers, and the Tramway and Butchers' Employes' Unions are reported as likely to shortly be represented on the council. On the other hand, the Coachmakers, and Saddle, Harness, and Collar-Makers' Unions have been dissolved, and the Ironmoulders and Tanners and Curriers' Unions have withdrawn. After referring briefly to the action taken by the council with regard to Immigration, State-aided Village Settlement, and the legislation of the Eight Hours' Day, the report goes on to state that up to the time of writing from 6,000 to 8,000 actual subscribers to the new labour paper had been secured, and an effort would be made to issue the first number on Brisbane's Labour Day (1st March). The success of delegates who visited the Central and Western districts for the purpose of attending the annual meetings of the Central Queensland Carriers', Central Queensland Labourers', and Queensland Shearers' Unions, with a view of inducing these organisations to adopt the principles of federation, is referred to; and the report speaks warmly of the kind feeling shown and brotherly sentiments expressed by the members of the Western unions. The prospect of "The Federation of Labour throughout Australasia" being accomplished is hopefully regarded. The balance-sheet up to 31st December, 1889, shows receipts amounting to £193 2s., and expenditure of £111 13s. 9d., leaving a credit balance of £81 8s. 3d. "The council feel convinced that the money entrusted to them has been laid out to the best possible advantage, and that they have placed it within the power of their successors, with the assistance of the affiliated unions, to get a fourfold return"; and they conclude with a hope "that no effort will be spared on the part of the various societies to interest their members in Federation, and to lend all possible assistance in pursuing the grand work of organisation."

Someone having trumpeted as a discovery that the way to the millennium is through fewer hours and the consequent employment of more workers, the Sydney *Echo* oracularly states that "the employé would not consent to have his wages reduced by a sumptuary law while he is willing and able to earn more; the employer, on his part, will not pay eight hours' wages for four hours' work." Now, in a community where natural opportunities are free to all and old age is not looked forward to with dread, no man will desire to labour after his daily wants are satisfied, and no employer will have the power to compel him either directly or indirectly to do so.—Sydney *Bulletin*.

The carriers on the Adelaide side will have to take a lesson out of the Queensland book if they do not want to be crushed in detail. A movement having been started for the formation of a union, three of the firms engaged in carrying goods between Adelaide and Port Adelaide threatened their men with immediate discharge if the movement were persisted in. Some of the men were inclined to drop the movement on receiving higher wages and shorter hours, but promises of assistance having been received from the Trades and Labour Council and the Maritime Labour Council, they are likely to remain true. At present the pay is two guineas per week, the day's work ranging from ten to sixteen hours, and the men want £2 5s., or an increase of 3s. per week, and uniform hours, extra payment being given for overtime. One master, Mr. J. W. Bushnell, has agreed to pay union wages and to throw no obstacles in the way of men wishing to join the Union.

THE LABOUR STRUGGLE.

The Mauricewood Disaster.

Our friends will remember this disaster, which occurred last September, through a fire breaking out at the Mauricewood Colliery, Midlothian, when sixty-three miners were stifled to death by the smoke. The Commissioners have now given their decision, and Keir Hardie reviews it in an excellent article in the *Labour Tribune*. He points out that the Commissioners' report briefly summarised resolves itself into this: "1st, The fire originated in the return air way, but how it originated cannot be ascertained; 2nd, the smoke found its way into the intake air-way owing to a badly-constructed trap-door being partly open, owing also to the stoppings between the intake and return air-ways being badly constructed, and through a rhone or pipe used for conveying fresh air from the intake air-way to the engine-house; 3rd, there was no proper second outlet from the part of the mine in which the accident occurred; 4th, that had the level which was at one time actually begun and afterwards stopped, been driven between the Mauricewood and the 160-fathom working at the Greenlaw Pit been gone on with and completed, the accident would not have happened. Add to these the extraordinary fact that of 14,000 cubic feet of air per minute entering the mine, only 3,500 found its way to the face, and we have a set of circumstances which point to an amount of carelessness and contempt for the provisions of the Mines Act not easily paralleled. There is no getting over the fact, try as we may, that sixty-three men lost their lives because the provisions of the Mines Act and the very commonplaces of mine management had been recklessly disregarded. What are, then, the findings of the Commissioners? They can be summed up in four words—'No one is to blame.' Every attempt is made to whitewash black spots, palliate wrongdoing, and even misconstrue the Mines Act in favour of the delinquents. Instead of an attempt to fix responsibility in an impartial manner, their special pleadings are all those of a council for defence." Quite natural, for in this case, be it remembered, it is not possible to put the blame on the shoulders of the miners. They cannot be made responsible for a "badly-constructed trap-door," or for there being "no proper second outlet from the part of the mine in which the accident occurred." No; in this case it is the greed and the meanness of the owners that turned the mine into a death-trap; and the Commissioners naturally hesitate before condemning such respectable men. Instead of judging them, they defend them. The law which can punish a miner for striking matches to light his pipe is powerless against the mine-owner, who is equally reckless of the lives of the men. What, then, is the remedy? Not in more Acts of Parliament, through which capitalists can drive their coaches and six, but in the miners taking to heart the last few sentences of Keir Hardie's article: "In the last analysis we get to this conclusion, that were the miners of the kingdom organised and watchful over their own interests, they could do much to make such things as these impossible. Where men have not interest enough in themselves to combine for the protection of their own interests, they must not expect that either governments or commissioners can be intensely interested either in them or their welfare.

"Hereditary bondsmen learn to know
Who would be free, themselves must strike the blow."

End of the Liverpool Dock Strike.

The men and the masters met several times in conference during the past week, but no agreement was arrived at. The leaders therefore determined that the men should go to work for those masters who were willing to pay the union terms. Last Saturday a large number of the men entered the dock gates to work for the masters who were paying the union wages. Soon after work had commenced some 200 labourers went for some blacklegs who were working on a steamer, and completely scattered them, one blackleg being so anxious to get away that he jumped into the dock. The police came rushing up, to find the unionists had got the blacklegs down on the deck and were pummeling them without mercy. A smart skirmish followed between the police and the dockers, one of whom sent a big stone at the head of a police inspector. He was immediately arrested, and though his comrades did their utmost to rescue him, was dragged off to the police-court and sentenced to two months' imprisonment.

On Monday a terrible rumour was afloat at Bootle. It was said that the union men had commenced a general onslaught upon the blacklegs. Seventy policemen rushed down to the docks in a great hurry to rescue the poor dear blacklegs, to find when they arrived there that all was quiet.

On the same day Michael Davitt, who has been very active in negotiating, had an interview with the employers who had not yet yielded, and persuaded them to agree to a settlement, the chief points of which are as follows: That the dinner-hour be conceded, but if the men should have to work during it they are to have two hours pay, and that they are not to do more than nine hours night work unless they choose. On their side the men agree to give a week's notice in case of another strike.

Dock Strike at Plymouth.

Four hundred dockers came out last Saturday at Plymouth. They demand 7d. an hour for day labour, 9d. an hour for overtime, and 1s. an hour Sunday labour. The masters have agreed to these terms, but have refused to sign an agreement making the terms binding for twelve months. A steamer that arrived on Sunday evening had to be unloaded by clerks and dock officials; the labourers refused to work, and the sailors, who were trade-unionists, declined to be blacklegs. The employers have telegraphed to the ports from which their ships sail to prevent them coming to Plymouth, but the strikers have also telegraphed to all ports where there are branches of the Dockers' Union and asked them to boycott Plymouth vessels.

The strike ended on Monday by the labourers accepting the employers' offer, withdrawing their demand for a twelve months' agreement.

Great Strike in the Boot Trade.

After a long series of unavailing negotiations, the strike began on Saturday, when 10,000 men came out. The men demand that the masters should provide them with workshops. This step has been taken by the men because home-work leads to sweating. The masters have offered the workshops on condition that the men will submit all questions of wages to arbitration. This the men refused to do, as they think the masters might attempt to cut down wages upon the basis of evidence collected from the country districts.

The men were joined by 1,700 Jewish workmen on Monday. Ninety-seven masters have given in out of 400. The rest of the masters held a meeting on

Monday night, at which they agreed to stick together. It is very doubtful, though, if they will do so, as according to most reports they are very disorganised, and the fact that so many have given in is proof that the surrender of the others is not far distant.

Livesey Breaks his Word.

Although Livesey agreed to give union men the preference for employment should any further vacancies occur at the time the strike was concluded, he has now deliberately gone back on his pledged word, and has had a notice posted outside the factory gates stating that no union men need apply. Of course this was what might be expected from the mean hypocrite who did his best to smash the union under a pretence of philanthropy; but I wonder if the capitalist press which attacked the dockers so bitterly for a pretended breach of faith will find equally strong terms of reprobation for Livesey's shameful treachery?

Shop Assistants' Union.

It was mentioned in the last report that the shop-assistants were agitated right through the country. As a proof of this, the assistants at Liverpool had a torchlight procession through the streets last week against the shopkeepers who would not close, with the result that when the police interfered a riot ensued, in the course of which one or two shop fronts of the sweating shopkeepers suffered severely in the way of broken glass. The whole work of the union in London has been concentrated on Hammersmith during the last few weeks, with the result that all the shopkeepers have given way in face of the boycott. One shopkeeper, a Mr. Retzbach, who keeps a pork and saveloy shop, kept open after 5 p.m. on Thursday Mar. 20, although he had promised to close, but on a threatening crowd gathering outside, he became alarmed for the safety of his windows and shut up hurriedly. The threatened prosecution has been abandoned, as the shopkeeper who threatened it, having shops in other parts of London, thought those might share the same fate if it was persisted in. Peckham will probably be the next point of attack, as a good branch has been established there, and the neighbourhood is a very late one.

Dublin Bricklayers' Labourers.

The bricklayers' labourers, who had been on strike for some time, resumed work on Monday March 24th, on the recommendation of Archbishop, pending the decision of the arbitrators. On March 28th, the arbitrators, Michael Davitt, Alderman Moyer, and Archbishop Walsh, made the following award: That the rate of wages from the resumption of work till July 1st should be 16s. 6d. per week, and from July 1st the wages should be—Summer wages, March 1st to October 31st, 18s. per week; Winter wages, November to end of February, 16s. per week. As is usual in cases of arbitration, the men have gained very little; in fact, many of them will lose 1s. 6d. per week.

At a general meeting of the Canterbury Trades and Labour Council, at Christchurch (N.Z.) on Saturday, Jan. 25, it was reported that 13 societies, with 1,456 members, were already affiliated to the Council, and other societies, with an aggregate membership of 1,650, were expected to join shortly, as they were in sympathy with it, and others are in process of formation and expected to join ultimately.

A meeting of the Auckland (N.Z.) Bakers' Union was held on Saturday, January 25, at which the working day was made ten hours, whereas the average hitherto has been from twelve to thirteen, and in some cases sixteen. For the first three hours after the working day, overtime is to be time and a-quarter, after that time and a-half. Delegates were appointed to the Trades and Labour Council.

We are prone to laugh at the superstitious devotions of pagans to their idols of wood and stone and the ignorance of African fetish worshippers, but the worst exhibition of pagan superstition does not fall much below the actions of some of the unthinking rank and file of our political parties. For blind profession of belief in something they have never attempted to analyse or understand, the average party machine-voter quite equals the devotees of Mumbo Jumbo. And except that the party processions are more orderly and less fatal than those of Juggernaut, they are but little to be preferred.—*Journal of the K. of L.*

Mrs. Astor of New York, at a recent wedding party, wore diamonds of the value of 800,000 dollars. Her earrings were valued at 50,000 dollars each. She wore a diamond chain of 500 stones valued at 1,000 dollars each. It may be well to add that 800,000 families suffered for the want of a dollar each to buy bread; that 300,000 families in Ireland are starving; that 800,000 men worked all that day for one dollar each; that 800,000 mothers were in deep distress for the need of a dollar each to help a poor sick child; that 1,600,000 little children were working all that day with weary brains and heavy hearts. And is this justice or equity? and did it represent her sacrifice, her earnings, her benefit to the world?—*Paterson Labour Standard.*

BERLIN LABOUR CONFERENCE.—The Conference has finished, and here, so far as they are known, are the results:—*Weekly rest*: 1. A Sunday holiday to be the general rule in all trades. 2. In trades where continuous work is inevitable, workers to have at least every second Sunday free. 3. Governments to arrive at an international understanding on the subject. *Work in mines*: 1. Underground work by women and by children under fourteen (twelve in southern countries) to be absolutely prohibited. 2. Working hours generally in dangerous mines to be shortened by such means as each country may think best. 3. Measures to be taken by the State to promote safety in mines, and to ensure compensation and relief from consequences of accidents. 4. Wages and output of coal to be regulated by voluntary agreement or arbitration between owners and workers on the British model. *Labour of women and young persons*: 1. Children under twelve to be excluded from "industrial work." 2. Between twelve and fourteen the period of "effective work" not to exceed six hours, with a minimum of one half-hour's rest; Sunday and night work prohibited. 3. Between fourteen and sixteen "effective work" not to exceed ten hours, with one and a half hours' rest; Sunday and night work prohibited. 4. Between sixteen and eighteen, a maximum working day to be fixed, with regulations as to work at night in dangerous industries. 5. For women above sixteen "effective work" not to exceed eleven hours per day, with one and a half hours' rest; Sunday and night work prohibited. These proposals, of course, do not go beyond recommendations, on which the various countries may or may not act. But most have been accepted by the delegates with only trifling reservations, and therefore Europe is in the main committed to an international programme on these lines.

THE SOCIALIST LEAGUE.

OFFICES: 24, GREAT QUEEN ST., LINCOLN'S INN FIELDS, W.C.

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

Branch Subscriptions Paid.—1888:—Oxford, to end of September. 1889:—Bradford and Hammersmith, to end of April. Norwich, Glasgow, and Yarmouth, to end of May. East London, to end of October. Mitcham, to end of November. St. Georges East, to end of December. 1890:—Manchester, to end of January. 'Commonweal' Branch, Leicester, and North London, to end of February. North Kensington, to end of April. Streatham, to end of December.

Cours Weavers Strike Fund.—Already acknowledged:—£4 1s. 4d. Received:—Jennie Glasier, 1s.; J. A. Morris, 5s.; A. T. Stevens, 6d.; H. R., 5s.; Wm. Thompson, £2; W. H. K., 6d.; and F. Pickles, 5s.

Propaganda Fund.—G. Beresford, £1.

Commune Celebration.—Hammersmith Branch, 4s. 2d.

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

NEW PREMISES FUND.

Collected at Council meeting, March 31st, 1s. 8d.

"COMMONWEAL" GUARANTEE FUND.

The following further sums have been received towards this fund:—C. Saunders, 2s.; H. R., 1s.; D. Nicoll, 6d.; B. W., 6d.; North London Branch, 3s.; Fraser, 6d.; Mrs. Schack, 6d.; Socialist Artist, 6d.; G. B. G., 6d.; and James Thomson, 6d.

REPORTS.

EAST LONDON.—A splendid meeting held in Victoria Park on Sunday afternoon; speakers were comrades Cores, Davis, and Hicks; 40 'Weal' sold and 1s. 1d. collected.—H. McK.

NORTH KENSINGTON.—Good meeting held at Latimer Road; speakers were Dean and Crouch; few 'Weals' sold. The Branch, in connection with Hammersmith, held a meeting in Hyde Park at 3 p.m.; we had a good audience; 12 *Commonweal* sold and 2s. collected. At our rooms in the evening, comrade Turner lectured to a good audience on "Co-operation" (The Socialist Co-operation Federation System); 2s. collected and several 'Weals' sold.

ABERDEEN.—At meeting on 24th, an article by Frederic Harrison on "The Eighteenth Century" was read and discussed. On the 30th we commenced our Sunday night meetings with a lecture by comrade Leatham, set down on the list as "The Only Thing that will do—By One of the Unemployed;" the hall was filled to suffocation, and the lecture, the discussion, and the singing were all voted unusually good.—L.

GLASGOW.—On Sunday we held our usual meetings at Jail Square and Paisley Road Toll, Glasier being the speaker in both instances; 'Weal' sold out.

LEEDS.—On Tuesday last comrade Morris lectured here at the Grand Assembly Rooms on "The Class Struggle"; the Rev. J. J. Bynner in the chair, and supported by two other rev. gentlemen. Morris was in good form, and was frequently applauded. Many questions asked. Good sale of our literature. On Sunday morning, at Vicar's Croft, a very good meeting was held, addressed by Corkwell, Paylor, Sweeney, Maguire, and others. Good sale of literature, and a collection made. In the afternoon, at the same place, another good meeting was held, speakers Roper and Sweeney; collection 3s.

YARMOUTH.—On Sunday morning, on Priory Plain, comrade Poyntz gave an address on "Where Trades-unionism Fails" to an attentive audience. In the evening, on Colman's Granary Quay, we held another meeting, comrades Brightwell and Poyntz speakers. 8d. collected, 15 *Commonweal* sold.—J. H.

DUBLIN.—On Sunday March 23rd, a general meeting of workmen was held, under the auspices of the Dublin Branch of the National Union of Gas-workers and General Labourers of Great Britain and Ireland, in the Theatre of the Mechanics Institute, Lower Abbey. Addresses were delivered by Mr. Canty, Central Branch, comrades Graham, Shields, Hamilton, and others.

LIVERPOOL SOCIALIST SOCIETY.—We had three fine meetings on Sunday. In the morning the Christian Evidence Society lecturer opposed us. Comrades Reeves and Chapman replied. In the afternoon Edward Carpenter lectured at the Landing Stage to a good and attentive audience. In the evening he lectured in the Concert Hall, Lord Nelson Street, Cunningham Graham in the chair. The hall was well filled; several dock-labourers came, and were specially addressed by Graham. *Commonweal* and *Justice* sold out, together with 10s. worth of literature. Collections, £1 5s.

DUBLIN.—A monster labour meeting, numbering from eight to ten thousand, was held in the Phoenix Park, on Sunday March 30th, under the auspices of the National Union of Gas-workers and General Labourers. J. A. Poole, M.A., presided. The principal speaker was Dr. Aveling, London, who was well received, and whose exposition of Internationalism was very forcible. Shields, Hamilton, and Canty also spoke. The following resolution was adopted:—"That this mass meeting in Phoenix Park, Dublin, recognises the imperative necessity of the working class combining nationally and internationally in order to obtain the due share of the wealth it creates."

CHESTERFIELD DISCUSSION SOCIETY.—Some of the readers of the *Commonweal* may be interested to know that a little work has been going on here. Lectures have been given every Sunday evening since October 27. The following names of comrades who have lectured for us will show that the subject has not been neglected, although we have not confined ourselves to Socialism. Comrades Carpenter, Taylor, Girdlestone, Morris, Gorbutt, Thompson, Unwin, Headlam, Peacock, Proctor, Pengelly, and Cassels have all helped us with one or more lectures. Altogether, good work has been done in breaking down prejudice and spreading our gospel. Our audiences have averaged from fifty to a hundred, though once or twice both more and less have been present.—R. U.

FUNERAL OF COMRADE F. NEUMAN.

The funeral of comrade F. Neuman took place last Sunday at Manor Park Cemetery. The following clubs and societies were represented in the procession: Communist Club, 1st Section ditto, Autonomie Club, Gleichheit Club, Berner Street Club, Socialist League, and Clerkenwell Branch of S.D.F. The speeches at the grave were delivered by comrade Bettye in German, and in English by F. Kitz. After some singing by the united choir, we grouped our flags around the grave and gave three cheers for the Social Revolution. The only hitch in the proceedings was caused by the police, who tried to stop the flags being carried into the cemetery; things looked ugly for a moment, but the police had to give way. A young countryman in uniform also tried hard to create a disturbance after the funeral, but failed.

LECTURE DIARY.

LONDON.

Battersea.—All communications to E. Buteux, 45, Inwith Street, Battersea Park Road.

Commonweal Branch.—24 Great Queen Street, Holborn, W.C. Business meeting of members every Thursday evening at 8; Discussion Class at 9. Hall open every evening from 7 till 10. On Sunday evening, April 6, a Concert. Members are requested to turn up at business meeting on Thursday.

East London.—Comrades are requested to turn up on Sunday afternoon to sell literature at the demonstrations. All branch communications to be addressed to H. McKenzie, 12 Basing Place, Kingsland Road.

Hammersmith.—Kelmecott House, Upper Mall, W. Sunday April 6, at 8 p.m., a Lecture. French Class conducted by Mde. Desroches on Friday evenings at 7.30.

Mitcham.—"Lord Napier," Fair Green. Meets every Sunday at 12.30, to enroll members, etc.

North Kensington.—Clarendon Coffee Palace, Clarendon Road. Meets every Wednesday at 8 p.m. On Sunday April 6, at 8 p.m., a Social Evening, with Songs, etc.

North London.—6 Windmill Street, Tottenham Court Road. Meets every Wednesday evening at 8 o'clock.

Streatham.—Address secretary, R. Smith, 1 Natal Road, Streatham.

Whitechapel and St. Georges in the East.—Branch meetings at International Club, 40 Berner Street, Commercial Road. J. Turner, organising secretary.

PROVINCES.

Aberdeen.—Organiser, J. Leatham, 7 Jamaica Street. Branch meets in Odd-fellows' Small Hall, Crooked Lane, on Monday evenings at 8. Singing practice at 46 Marischal Street on Thursdays at 8 p.m.

Bradford.—Laycock's Temperance Hotel, Albion Court, Kirkgate. Meets every Tuesday at 7.30.

Glasgow.—Ram's Horn Hall, 122 Ingram Street. Branch meets on Thursday evenings at 8 o'clock and Sundays at 7 o'clock. Members in arrears are earnestly requested to pay the contributions at once.

Halifax.—Socialists meet every Sunday at 6.30 p.m. at Helliwell's Temperance Hotel, Northgate.

Leeds.—Clarendon Buildings, Victoria Road, School Close. Open every evening. Business meeting Saturdays at 8 p.m.

Leicester.—Exchange Buildings, Rutland Street. Branch meets on Monday and Thursday, at 8 p.m.

Manchester.—Socialist League Club, 60 Grovesnor Street, All Saints. Open every evening. Branch weekly meeting on Tuesdays at 8 p.m.

Norwich.—Sunday, at 8, Gordon Hall. Tuesday, at 8.30, Members' meeting. Thursday, at 8, Discussion Class. Saturday, Social Meeting. Hall open every evening from 8 p.m.

Oxford.—Temperance Hall, 25½ Pembroke Street. First Friday in every month, at 8.30 p.m.

Walsall.—Socialist Club, 18 Goodall Street, Walsall. Meetings every night.

Yarmouth.—Branch meets at comrade Headley's, near Co-operative Stores, every Tuesday evening. Elocution Class Friday at 8 p.m. C. W. Mowbray (of London) will address three meetings here on Easter Sunday.

OPEN-AIR PROPAGANDA.

SATURDAY 5.

7 Hyde Park Nicoll and Cantwell
8.30 Mile-end Waste The Branch

SUNDAY 6.

11 Latimer Road Station North Kensington Branch
11.30 Hammersmith Bridge Hammersmith Branch
11.30 Kilburn—"Old Plough," Kilburn Lane Mainwaring
11.30 Mitcham—Fair Green Kitz
11.30 Regent's Park Nicoll
3.30 Hyde Park—Marble Arch North Kensington Branch
3.30 Victoria Park East London Branch
7 Weltje Road, Ravenscourt Park Hammersmith Branch
7.30 Walham Green—back of Church Hammersmith Branch
8 Streatham Fountain Kitz

TUESDAY 8.

8 Walham Green—back of Church Hammersmith Branch

THURSDAY 10.

8.15 Hoxton Church Kitz and Davis

PROVINCES.

Glasgow.—Sunday: Jail Square at 2 o'clock; Paisley Road at 5 o'clock. Tuesday: Cathedral Square, at 8 p.m.

Leeds.—Sunday: Hunslet Moor, at 11 a.m.; Vicar's Croft, at 7 p.m.

Liverpool.—Landing-stage, Sundays at 11.30.

Manchester.—Sunday: Philips Park Gates, at 11; Stevenson Square, at 3.

Norwich.—Sunday: St. Faiths, at 11; Market Place, at 3.

Sheffield.—Sunday: Monolith, Fargate, at 11.30 a.m.; Burngreave Road, near Vestry Offices, at 3 p.m.; Pump, West Bar, at 8 p.m.

Yarmouth.—Sunday: Priory Plain, at 11; Colman's Granary Quay, at 7.

MEMBERS and friends are asked to turn up at Regent's Park next Sunday, as the authorities are attacking the right of free speech.

CLUB AUTONOMIE, 6 Windmill Street, Tottenham Court Road, W.—Sunday April 6, at 8.30, George Stevens, "Anarchism v. Communism."

CHelsea S.D.F., Co-operative Lecture Hall, 312 Kings Road, Chelsea.—Sunday April 6, at 8 p.m., E. S. O'Dell, "Mr. Bradlaugh's Objections to an Eight Hours Bill."

NEW MANHOOD SUFFRAGE LEAGUE, "Three Doves," Berwick St., Soho, W.—Sunday April 6, at 8.30 p.m., George R. Cox, "Felicitous Facts and Figures for Co-operators." Business meeting at 7.30.

SHEFFIELD.—At Hallamshire Hall, Westbar, on Sunday April 6, J. Sketchley, 11 a.m., "Labour Organisations"; at 6.30, "Why I am a Socialist."

NOTTINGHAM SOCIALIST CLUB.—All communications to be addressed to the Secretary, A. Clifton, 11 Hawksworth Street, Clarence Street.

EDINBURGH—SCOTTISH SOCIALIST FEDERATION.—Sunday April 6, R. Dempster will speak in Meadows at 2.30, and in Moulders' Hall, High Street, at 6.30. On Tuesday April 8, at 35 George IV. Bridge, at 8 p.m., Gilray will criticise one of the Fabian essays; discussion.

LIVERPOOL SOCIALIST SOCIETY, 1 Stanley Street, Dale Street.—Meets every Tuesday at 8 p.m.

'COMMONWEAL.'

TO PUBLISHERS AND BOOKSELLERS.

Your attention is called to the under-given Terms of Advertising in the **Commonweal**, which, circulating as it does throughout Europe, America, and the Colonies, affords by far the best medium for bringing Books—especially those which deal with Social questions—under the notice of probable purchasers.

Among the subscribers and readers of the **Commonweal** are numbered the most prominent Political and Social Reformers of this Country, as well as of the Continent and America; and the greater part of its *clientele* are men continually upon the alert for the latest expressions of opinion or statements of fact upon the problems of the day.

Terms of Advertising.

3d. per Line each Insertion.

Half Column (57 Lines), 13s. 6d.
 One Column (114 Lines), £1, 5s.
 Two Columns, £2, 8s.
 Three Columns, £3, 10s.

Discount on Monthly Accounts amounting to £1, five per cent.; £5, ten per cent.

Advertisements must be acceptable in every respect. Copy received until Tuesdays, 3 p.m.

The **COMMONWEAL** is sent free to those who advertise in it as long as their advertisement continues.

SCALE OF BREVIER LINES.

—5
 —10
 —15

SOCIALIST CO-OPERATIVE FEDERATION, LTD.

49 SOUTHAMPTON ROW, LONDON, W.C.

Sound Goods at Fair Prices!

SOCIALISTS of every shade who wish well to this enterprise should give it the first chance before going elsewhere. Boycott the Sweater all you can!

MEN V. MACHINERY.

Suggestive Facts and Figures, urging National Control of National Powers of Production.

By THOMAS SHORE.

With Preface by H. HALLDAY SPARLING.

Commonweal Office, 24, Great Queen Street, Lincoln's Inn Fields, London, W.C., or from T. Shore, 33 Newington Green Road, N.

ON THE TWO GODS

OF THE CLERGY AND THE SOCIALISTS, See "EVIDENCE respecting HELL."

A Verifiable Story of how the Silencing of one of the Clergy by Sudden Death taught the Writer the Vanity of their God.

1d. W. REEVES, 185 Fleet Street, E.C.

FREIHEIT

INTERNATIONAL ORGAN OF THE GERMAN-SPEAKING ANARCHISTS.

EDITED BY JOHN MOST.

Subscription, 2s. per quarter; under cover, 4s.

Müller, Post Office Box 3135, New York, U.S.A. or Office of *Commonweal*.

J. SKETCHLEY'S PUBLICATIONS.

153, GIBRALTAR STREET, SHEFFIELD.

The Workman's Question: WHY HE IS POOR. 24 pp., in Wrapper. Price Twopence. 6 or more copies post free. 50, post free, 6s. 100, post free, 11s.

A Review of European Society. With an Exposition and Vindication of the Principles of Social Democracy. By J. SKETCHLEY. An Introduction by WILLIAM MORRIS. 240 pp., post free 1s. 6d.; cloth gilt, 2s. 3d.

The Irish Question. Third Edition. 32 pages, in Wrapper. Price Threepence. 6 or more copies post free.

Labour and Capital (Kellogg). 370 pp. Post free, 1s. 1d.

WORKS BY JOHN BEDFORD LENO

"THE BURNS OF LABOUR."—*Athenæum*.

Drury Lane Lyrics. Fcap. 8vo, cloth. 3s.

The Last Idler, and other Poems. Fcap. 8vo, cloth. 3s.

Kimburton, A PICTURE OF VILLAGE LIFE. Second and Enlarged Edition. Paper Cover. 1s.

The marvellous success of 'Our Father,' 'Bet Graham,' 'Poor Bill,' 'Kimburton Fair,' etc., etc., forming part of the above work, as recitals, at St. James's Hall, London Clubs, etc., caused the first edition to be speedily exhausted.

REEVES AND TURNER, 196 Strand, W.C., or of the Author, 76 Drury Lane, W.C.

LA REVOLTE

ORGANE COMMUNISTE-ANARCHISTE.

One Penny weekly; by post, 1½d.

24 Great Queen Street, London, W.C.

MONOPOLY:

OR,

HOW LABOUR IS ROBBED.



A New Pamphlet

BY WILLIAM MORRIS.

Sixteen pages, ONE PENNY; by post, 1½d.

COMMONWEAL OFFICE, 24 Great Queen Street, W.C.

ARBEJDEREN

("The Worker")

DANISH SOCIALIST WEEKLY.

Edited and published by NICOLAJ PETERSEN and GERSON TRIER.

Subscription 3s. a-year.

Nansensgade 28A, Copenhagen.

NEW AND CHEAPER EDITION.

A DREAM OF JOHN BALL

AND

A KING'S LESSON.

BY WILLIAM MORRIS.

12mo, 143 pp. 1s.; post free, 1s. 2d.

Commonweal Office, 24, Great Queen Street, Lincoln's Inn Fields, London, W.C.

ALL FOR THE CAUSE.

By W. MORRIS, with Music by E. B. BAX

Threepence.

Commonweal Office, 24, Great Queen Street, Lincoln's Inn Fields, London, W.C.

STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES.

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

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

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

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

Thus, while we abide by the old motto

Liberty, Fraternity, Equality,

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

We add to the first motto then this other one—

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

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

COUNCIL OF THE SOCIALIST LEAGUE.

NOTICE.

Subscribers who find a red wrapper round paper are thereby reminded that their subscriptions have expired and must be renewed immediately if they wish to continue to receive *Commonweal*.

Printed in the Socialist League Printery, and published in the name and on behalf of the Socialist League, by FRANK KITZ, at 24 Great Queen St., Lincoln's Inn Fields, London, W.C.