

THE COMMONWEAL

The Official Journal of the SOCIALIST LEAGUE.

VOL. 6.—No. 250.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25, 1890.

WEEKLY; ONE PENNY.

CHICAGO MURDERS & BLOODY SUNDAY.

"Let the voice of the people be heard."—Parsons.

Two Meetings to celebrate the Anniversary of above events will be held as follows—

ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 11th, at 8 p.m.

AT THE

MILTON HALL, HAWLEY CRESCENT,
KENTISH TOWN ROAD, N.W.

The following speakers will address the meeting:—Wm. Morris, F. Kitz, R. W. Burnie, J. Turner, Mrs. Lahr, Miss E. Lupton, Mrs. Schack, D. J. Nicoll, C. W. Mowbray, and Louise Michel.

Revolutionary Songs will be sung during the evening. Admission free.

ON THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 13th, at 8 p.m.

AT THE

UNITED RADICAL CLUB, KAY STREET,
HACKNEY ROAD, E.

For full particulars see small bills. Admission free.

And now, despite the seeming peace at the docks, preparations are being actively made for the coming battle. "No lock-out is intended," say the dock directors. Of course, bless their innocent hearts, they never thought of such a thing! They are only engaging a thousand "permanent hands." "The committee entertain no vindictive feeling toward the dockers, and wish to work amicably with them, but for their own protection and in the interests of their customers, they will in case of future intermittent troubles, draft these permanent men to the spot at which their services are most required." Kind, thoughtful gentlemen! We hear also they are going to propose a new wage system on the 4th November. So in addition to employing blacklegs to take the men's places if they strike against any tyranny, they will benevolently lower their wages also. We wonder if the dockers will stand this. We do not think so, though it is a pity that the weakness and vacillation of their leaders should have encouraged the directors to have taken up this openly hostile attitude.

This is indeed a very quiet time—depressingly quiet. But it only reminds us of an old story. An Irish gentleman was once complimented upon the "quietness" of his country. "O, yes," he replied, "we are very quiet; we are as quiet as gunpowder over there." Yes, and this is the position of affairs everywhere at the present time. The resolution of the Lille Congress in favour of a general strike of miners; the appearance of a strong revolutionary section in the "constititional" German Social Democratic Party; the growing discontent and agitation among the workers in every country in Europe,—all point to serious trouble in the immediate future. The crisis is inevitable, and when it comes—and come it will—no power on earth can save the capitalist classes from swift and speedy destruction. N.

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A "QUIET" TIME.

POSSIBLY the ordinary newspaper reader would not think that during the last week we have been passing through a very critical period. If, however, he had been interested in Stock Exchange speculations he would have known it. Anyone who has read the Money article in the papers recently, though he may not be an expert in these matters, can see quite clearly that a serious crisis was only prevented last week by some of those clever manipulations in which the thieves of the Stock Exchange excel. Yes, but this crisis has been postponed, not prevented. It must come, and the longer it is held back by the expert manoeuvres of these gentlemen the heavier will be the crash in the end.

Another dangerous sign, the number of unemployed even among the skilled trade unionists is steadily increasing. Mr. Burnett in his recent Board of Trade Report, says: "The unions reporting show an aggregate membership of 229,517, and of this number 6,197 are out of work, this being a proportion of 2.60 per cent, as compared with 2.28 in the month preceding and 2.10 for the corresponding month of 1889." So the number of unemployed is steadily growing, and after all work is not so easily obtained as the reverend Canon Gregory of St. Paul's appeared to think the other day. The unemployed who appear in our streets have, then, some reason for their existence. If so many men are out of work in skilled trades, what must it be in the unskilled, and what will it be when the big crash comes on 'Change which we can all see approaching?

THE CURSE OF LAND-MONOPOLY.

"Ill fares the land to hastening ills a prey,
Where wealth accumulates and men decay."

OF all social diseases, that of land-monopoly is the most widespread, the deepest rooted, and the oldest standing; it is the origin and fount of poverty, want, disease, and the thrice-accursed wage-system; the upholder of modern warfare, class institutions, and the hateful spirit of nationality, and forms the rotten basis of our so-called civilisation—a civilisation which requires the constant support on all sides of Church, Army, State, and Law to prevent its crumbling to pieces and disappearing. Though these buttresses form worthy points of attack by the Revolutionary Socialist, yet the one which he goes for with the greatest ardour is that of the sacred institution of land-monopoly, the haven to which the bourgeois ever turns his head after a successful business career; for private property in land is the pedestal of privilege and power, and to be a landed proprietor is his final earthly beatitude. Huckstering and sweating must give place to rent-mongering, which is much more respectable.

What an amazing change our worthy friend undergoes after his retirement from "shop." The metamorphoses of a grub are nothing to it. After having gorged himself to his satisfaction on the toil of his "hands" (I don't mean his own useless paws, but the men and women who have spent what ought to have been their brightest days in his factory-hell), he turns his attention from vulgar trade to the more gentlemanly existence of a landed proprietor. True, during his days of labour exploitation he has been the means of shortening the lives of his hirelings to one-half of Nature's allowance, and has recruited to some extent the ranks of prostitution from his work-women; but in this there is nothing at all illegal. It is not his place to keep girls in finery and luxuries; besides, they agreed to work for the wages he offered them, and they were free to go elsewhere if they were not satisfied. This is a free country.

Well, let bygones be bygones. He is somebody else now; a country gentleman living on his estate; a churchwarden, perhaps, taking a strong interest in Sunday-schools, agriculture, philanthropical movements, and the like, and ready to hold out the hand of fellowship to the working man—particularly if it lies in the power of the working man to return him to Parliament at the next election.

Until very recently the attention of the bourgeoisie was so rigidly

TOMMY ATKINS.

(From Songs of the Army of the Night.)

I STAND and watch the soldiers
Marching up and down,
Above the fresh green cricket-ground
Just outside the town.

I stand and watch and wonder
When in this English land
This poor fool Tommy Atkins
Will learn and understand?

Zulus and Boers and Arabs,
All fighting to be free,
Men and women and children,
Murdered and maimed has he.

In India and in Ireland
He's held the people down,

While the robber English gentleman
Took penny and pound and crown.

To make him false to his order,
What was it that they gave—
To make him his brother's oppressor?
The clothes and pay of a slave!

O thou poor fool Tommy Atkins!
Thou wilt be wise that day
When with eager eyes and clenched
teeth
Thou riseth up to say—

"This is our well-loved England,
And I'll free it if I can
From every rotten bourgeois
And played-out gentleman!"

FRANCIS ADAMS.

INTERNATIONAL NOTES.

FRANCE.

Above the mingled din of Congresses—Possibilist, Collectivist, Marxist—there comes to English workers' ears the cry for help of the Calais lace-makers. It is cheering news indeed that that cry has been so well responded to, especially by those of the same trade at Nottingham. Frenchman and Englishman joining hands across the Channel against the common enemy, Capitalism, is the sort of "cordial understanding" that Socialists like to see. Our Anarchist comrade Dumas (of Saint-Etienne) speaking lately at Romans, gave a good answer to an inquirer who suggested that Collectivism would serve as a transition to true Communism. "Collectivism," said Dumas, "is too late in the field, and can no longer play the part which might have been open to it forty years ago. The workers have discovered that they are exploited, as it is, by masters and governors; they will never yield to the yoke of a Statistical Committee, which would necessarily transform itself into a reactionary Government. The Anarchist ideas have fostered wider views, and are easier to understand by brains which are evolving new conceptions. If road-locomotives had been invented in time they would have ploughed along every highway, but they were anticipated by the more useful railway-engine, and so remained an antiquarian curiosity. So will it be with Collectivism and Anarchism."

The Congress of the so-called Workmens' Party at Châtellerault fell to internecine strife in the most approved Parliamentary fashion, and some delegates were expelled by the majority acting under the orders of the excellent Brousse. It is claimed that the delegates excluded really represent the majority of the party, and a meeting of the party has been held in Paris repudiating the Congressional action. *La Parti Ouvrier*, the organ of the dissidents, uses strong language concerning the conduct of the Possibilist Municipal Councillors.

The Marxist Congress at Lille seems to have passed off more quietly. The "Marxists" decided to take part in the Brussels International Congress next year.

I am sorry indeed to note that the editors of the excellent Paris *Révolution* are driven to publish the following notice: "We only appear this week by dint of lengthening our already long list of debts. Comrades must not be astonished if they do not receive the paper next week." Now, you French-speaking revolutionists, hurry up. It would be deplorable indeed if the workers were to lose yet another organ by their own default.

ITALY.

Il Fascio Operaio of Alessandria translates with approval the article on the English Working Class Movement in *La Révolte*, upon which our comrade Nicoll commented a week or two back. Our comrades of the Italian "Workmens' Party," if they read English, should correct false impressions by referring to Nicoll's article.

The Italian Workmens' Party holds its fifth General Congress at Milan on November 1st and 2nd. The agenda-paper compares somewhat favourably with those of Social Democratic gatherings elsewhere. The foremost question on the "order of the day" is "The necessity of organising the party on the one basis of 'Resistance.'" This sounds well.

An excellent new Anarchist paper, *La Campana* of Ancona (to which our comrade Merlino contributes a most interesting paper on "Objections to Anarchist Socialism"), hopes to organise a general congress of all Italian Socialists early in the spring of 1891. Ticino has been mentioned as a suitable locality. Crispi is hardly likely to allow a revolutionary gathering in the kingdom of Italy. A general congress of Italian Socialists is being actually attempted at Ravenna under the auspices of the parliamentarians. Revolutionists apparently will not be welcome there and will not attend.

A somewhat astonishing bit of Italian news comes to us by way of Barcelona. An Anarchist journal, *La Nuova Riscossa*, was prosecuted before the local court at Trapani on account of its articles on the First of May movement. "The defence of the advocate Grignany," says *El Productor*, "was a reasoned and brilliant exposition of Anarchist principles. It carried away the audience, and even the very jury, who returned a unanimous verdict of 'Not Guilty.'" English bourgeois are made of sterner stuff, and imagination fails to realise an English advocate delivering an Anarchist oration in court. It would be an excellent way of disposing of some of our more obnoxious judges. Surely they would die of the shock. Seriously speaking, I join with the writer in *El Productor* in congratulating our comrade Grignany and his clients.

The Roman correspondent of the *Daily Chronicle* (for once I may quote from a capitalist paper) says that "according to official information on the subject, the number of unemployed workmen amounts to about 100,000 in Rome and the provinces, with perhaps a like number in the Romagna and at Milan, and some 60,000 at Turin, not to mention those in the remaining provinces." How glorious a triumph it is to be a citizen of "free Italy," and what a sweet boon to the workers is the thing called "constitutional government"!

CUBA.

Havannah has been deeply moved by the provisions of the American Tariff Bill, and it seems not unlikely that many a worker's child in Cuba

will have reason to curse the name of MacKinley. The Cuban employers talk of a general cessation of manufacture and commerce with the object of forcing the Spanish Government to enter into a commercial treaty with the United States. That meanwhile the workers (already hard pushed by eight months of scarcity of work) would be starving, is not, of course, a matter that masters care about. It may be, however, that the bosses will hesitate before taking this extreme step, not from pity but from fear. It may be dangerous to drive the workers too much into a corner. *El Productor* (of Havannah) says: "We warn our workers beforehand, so that should this cessation of work come they may know how to rise to that height to which every people should reach when the means of subsistence are snatched from them, and it is sought to lead them to death by hunger. Mayhap this lock-out may prove true the saw which tells us that 'the unification of the toilers will be the work of the rich, even as the Social Revolution will be the work of the poor.' Let the lock-out come; we do not desire it, but as little do we fear it. Should it come, the rich will be responsible for what may happen."

SPAIN.

Our comrades in Barcelona are preparing to celebrate the Chicago anniversary. Strikes, of a more or less sporadic character, continue there.

At Játiva the Anarchists are holding a series of meetings, to which the "partido obrero," or "Workmens' Party" (here as elsewhere an euphemism for parliamentary Socialists), are invited. There has been free and open debate on parliamentary and anti-parliamentary tactics, and, judging by the reports in the Barcelona *Productor*, the Anarchists would seem so far to have more than held their own.

The Anarchists of the Basque Provinces are working to establish a Communist-Anarchist newspaper. It is to be named *El Combate* ("The Combat") and to be published at San Sebastian. This is good news to come from that curious old-world Basque-land which has ever been a stronghold of feudalism and reaction,—no doubt mainly because the people have identified Carlism and reaction with their local autonomy—of which, for that matter, they do well to be jealous, at least until the time comes when they can conquer for themselves complete individual autonomy. R. W. B.

A TOUR THROUGH THE MIDLANDS.

I BEGAN on August 4th a propaganda tour through the Midlands, beginning with Leicester, where I stayed a week, during which the comrades worked hard at the various meetings which were held. We broke new ground at Oadby and Anstey, two villages near to Leicester, and with the comrades in this district I paid a visit to Loughborough and Derby, going from there to Sheffield. There I also spent a week, and we carried on vigorous work among the miners of Eckington, where comrade Cores and myself delivered *Commonweal* from house to house, as well as meeting the miners coming from the pits with leaflets. We afterwards held a meeting in the market place. I also addressed a meeting at Woodhouse, and held several meetings at Sheffield. The comrades worked very hard, and making a special feature of the Chicago Martyrs' Speeches, selling during my visit over a hundred. These were sold mainly among the miners, who seem to admire greatly those noble heroes our comrades of Chicago.

On leaving Sheffield I went to Manchester, and addressed a series of meetings in both Manchester and Salford. Here also success crowned their efforts of our comrades, for we held splendid meetings at all places to which we went. I returned to Sheffield after my Manchester trip and again did a week's propaganda, after which I went to Leeds. Here we had three splendid meetings, where I was splendidly supported by our comrades. We made the most of my visit, and notwithstanding the various threats of opposition from our erstwhile comrade McGuire, the day went over without an explosion. I again returned to Sheffield, and spent another four days, prior to my visit to Hull, where I again had three good meetings. The comrades of all nationalities (and there are many in Hull) worked with that energy which is certain to bring success, Smith and Reynolds to help, besides others whose names escape me, we had some enthusiastic meetings.

I may mention in passing that I missed no opportunity of spreading our literature among the soldiers in all the places I visited.

I returned again to Sheffield, this time nearly exhausted, and spent another week prior to my return to London. In all I addressed forty-eight meetings. Literature sold well at all, and collections were good. My general impression of the visit has been to strengthen the views I already held—i.e., that our work in the future must be more in the provinces if we do not wish to court failure. There is a large tract of country comparatively untouched by Socialist teaching, south, west, and north.

The collections in most cases nearly cover the expenses, and I found the people not only eager to listen and question the speakers, but ready and willing to aid in paying expenses. Take Derby as an instance. The first meeting held (I believe) was the one I addressed, and £1 0s. 1½d. was collected. Many comrades I met with feared that a vigorous, thoroughgoing propaganda would frighten the audiences, but the result showed them the mistake. It is no use trying to preach down to the people if you want to make earnest revolutionists of them, for the greater your earnestness the more impression you are bound to make on your audience.

There is one thing also I must not forget, i.e., our paper the *Commonweal*. I found on explaining our principles, and making a point of speaking as far as I could from the paper, that there was no difficulty in selling it; but that on the other hand it went off even beyond my own expectations. Most of the places are trying to vie with Sheffield in paper selling, but are as yet far behind, though to all appearances Leicester will not be long before it takes a place alongside. Leeds also will soon catch up, owing no doubt to our comrade Samuels, who is not only an earnest worker but is filling the other comrades with the same spirit. I must not forget Manchester, who have progressed wonderfully of late. Hull could sell more papers, and before long I have no doubt they will see their way clear to quadruple their order.

Altogether I am pleased with the result of the tour, which shows that our ideas are getting a firm hold in the provinces. I can as a further result say that Leicester, Loughborough, Nottingham, Derby, Sheffield, Manchester, Leeds, and Hull will not be behind when the day of revolution dawns upon us, and the desire of all the comrades was to work hard and earnestly in order to hasten that day. Preparations are also being made in all these places to celebrate the anniversary of the murder of our Chicago comrades for the purpose of explaining to the people why our heroic comrades lives were sacrificed. C. W. M.



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.

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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.

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Remittances from abroad must be made by International Money Order.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

WILL Branch Secretaries please write Reports and Orders for Literature on separate pieces of paper.

CORRESPONDENTS who order literature should prepay postage, or state if they wish their parcels to be sent per rail or carrier, "carriage forward."

Periodicals received during the week ending Wednesday October 22.

ENGLAND Belfast Weekly Star Justice Labour Tribune People's Press Railway Review Seafaring New NEW SOUTH WALES Sydney—Truth Austrian Star	IRELAND Bankpore—Behar Herald UNITED STATES New York—Reasoner New York—Freiheit New York—Truthseeker Voice Twentieth Century Volkszeitung Bakers' Journal Boston—Woman's Journal Investigator	Boston —Liberty Nationalist Weekly Nationalist Monthly Buffalo—Arbeiter-Zeitung Chicago—Rights of Labour Vorboten Detroit—Der Arme Teufel Kaweah (Cal) Commonwealth Ottawa—Progress and Liberty Philadel.—Knights of Labour Paterson Labour Standard S.F.—Coast Seamen's Journal San Francisco Arbeiterzeitung Pacific Union St. Louis—Anarchist Valley Falls (Kan.)—Lucifer	BERGUM Antwerp—De Werker Ghent—Vooruit HOLLAND Hague—Recht voor Allen SWITZERLAND Arbeiterstimme Bulletin Continental SPAIN Madrid—El Socialista Barcelona—El Productor El Proletario AUSTRIA Vienna—Arbeiter-Zeitung Brunn—Arbeiterstimme HUNGARY Budapest—Nepszava DENMARK Copenhagen—Arbejderen SWEDEN Malmö—Arbetet Stockholm, Social-Demokraten WEST INDIES Cuba—El Productor ARGENTINE REPUBLIC Buenos Ayres—Vorwarts
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THE CURSE OF LAND MONOPOLY.

(Concluded from p. 338.)

SINCE Christianity determines the worth of the tree by the quality of its fruit, so may our Church-going land monopolists be judged by our increasing crops of pauperism and prostitution. The following cuttings from contemporary papers speak for themselves:

The Rev. H. V. Mills, in his 'Poverty and the State,' affirms that "eight million people in the British Isles, by inevitable circumstances, cannot obtain honest continuous employment;" while Mr. John Rae (as cited by Mr. Mills) informs us that, "in the wealthiest nation in the world every twentieth inhabitant is a pauper; one-fifth of the community is insufficiently clad; the agricultural labourers, and large classes of working-people in towns, are too poorly fed to save them from what are known as starvation diseases; the great proportion of our population lead a life of monotonous incessant toil with no prospect in old age but penury and parochial support; and one-third, if not indeed one-half, of the families of the country are huddled six in a room in a way quite incompatible with the elementary claims of decency, health, or morality."

Ben Tillett, in his 'Dock Labourers' Bitter Cry,' cites from Professor Thorold Rogers the following appalling statement: "There is a large population collected in our great cities, equalling in numbers the whole of those who lived in England and Wales six centuries ago; whose condition is more destitute, whose homes are more squalid, whose means are more uncertain, and whose future is more hopeless than the poorest serf in the middle ages."

Then, as regards East London in particular, Mr. Charles Booth, whose

area of inquiry embraced 900,000 people, tells his readers that 314,000, i.e., 38 per cent. of this great host, "suffer from poverty sinking to actual want."

Canon Duckworth, preaching at Westminster Abbey on Sunday afternoon, said: "We may boast of an empire upon which the sun never sets, a commerce which belts the planet, but let us also remember that 170,000 paupers inhabit this the richest city of the world."

"Ninety per cent. of our work-people have no place they can call a home beyond the end of the week."

It has been calculated that there are about 200,000 families living in London on about a pound a week, and they are in a large measure the people of one room.

A calculation has been made by Dr. Rhodes "that if all the paupers in England formed into column four deep, the procession would be 100 miles long."

In London one person in every five will die in the workhouse, hospital, or lunatic asylum.

It is extremely difficult to even approximately estimate the number of prostitutes in this country. The police, who might be taken as the most competent authorities in these matters, have it that there are between 90,000 and 100,000 in London alone. This gives an average of about one in fifty for all our large towns.

And yet all this sacrifice of human life and happiness is sanctioned by the law. There is no law on our statute books to require that a man may not let his brother starve or his sister get her bread on the streets, even though he have the means of preventing it. Of course not. The class who have framed these laws took good care that there should be none. The absence of such an enactment is the very breath of their existence, and it is absurd to think that they will permit any alteration in the existing state of affairs while they can keep armed forces in their pay to prevent it. Yet, in the face of all this, Collectivists and Democrats will refer us for freedom to the ballot-box, triumphantly pointing to the Board Schools and the posts and telegraph systems as the real dawn of the Socialistic era. We have, they tell us, only to hammer away and thrust monopoly bit by bit beneath the fostering wing of government, and by the time we are all brooded under the old parliamentary hen, and there you are don't you know. By the way, what will be the State fine when the State workman comes in late to the State factory?

Let us suppose for a moment that after striving and hoping for, say another decade or two, we managed to institute State water-works, State gas-works, and State tramways, what does that mean? Why, merely an extension of our present civil service, that is, we should be jockeyed by more batches of highly-paid useless nobodies such as are now on exhibition at Somerset House and other Government offices, and the really useful servitors would be placed in the underpaid and trammelled position at present borne by our postmen. Of all sweaters the State is the biggest, with its strangulating red tape and its sealing-wax. If it thought fit it would nationalise these and other matters to-morrow. Posts and telegraphs were monopolised by the State solely to facilitate warfare, government, and competitive commerce, and not in the interests of the people at all. Our Board Schools are merely factories for turning out more capable, and therefore more profitable, tools for the service of the labour exploiters; but they are turning out sharper-edged tools than their founders anticipated. The tools are sharp enough to find on facing the world why they are not free to work and live as Nature bids them, and accordingly the young proletarian is a trade unionist as soon as he becomes a hireling, thus, consciously or not, befitting himself for the coming Commune.

Before the workers can free themselves of the murderous grasp of Landlordism, they will have to reckon with the whole of the forces at the command of the bourgeoisie. They have long ago outgrown that old superstitious reverence for the powers that be, and notwithstanding the cant with which some of them have been dosed by their leaders, they are awakening to the fact that freedom is only to be gained by bullet and not by ballot. Parliament seeing that it can no longer pose as the people's voice, has thrown aside its masquerade and is now the honest enemy. Mark the present conspiracy of silence on the part of the Liberal gang in the face of the growing labour organisations. But this is a useful factor, for it makes still clearer the plan of campaign, and is driving the waverers into the ranks of the unions.

As the land and capital have been taken from us by force, so must they be retaken by the same means. You might just as well hope to turn away a shark by prayer when you have tumbled overboard into his jaws as to hope to get them back by any other. By the time a few more affairs like those of Trafalgar Square and Southampton have happened, the Labour battalions will be sufficiently in touch with one another to respond to the general signal to throw down their tools all together. The air may be still for a little while, and then the bourgeoisie will shout for their soldiers, but can they be depended upon to do their "duty." We shall see. JONATHAN BINES.

THE COMPLAINT OF THE IDLE CLASSES. — Will you bandy accusations, will you accuse us of over-production? We take the Heavens and the Earth to witness that we have produced nothing at all. In the wide domains of created Nature circulates no shirt or thing of our producing. . . . He that accuses us of producing, let him show himself, let him name what and when. We are innocent of producing; ye ungrateful, what mountains of things have we not, on the contrary, had to "consume" and make away with! Mountains of those your heaped manufactures, wheresoever edible or wearable, have they not disappeared before us, as if we had the talent of ostriches, of cormorants, and a kind of divine faculty to eat? Ye ungrateful!—and did you not grow under the shadow of our wings? Are not your filthy mills built on these fields of ours; on this soil of England, which belongs to—whom think you?—Carlyle: 'Past and Present.'

THE GREAT AUSTRALIAN STRIKE.

WHEN the last mails left Australia the strike was in full swing. The men had been wrought up to a high pitch of excitement and enthusiasm by the news that the English unions were rallying to their support; and on the other side the capitalists were in a fearful state of funk, which was only equalled by their furious rage. The temper of these people is shown by the following extract from our plucky little contemporary the Brisbane *Worker*: "Lies, calumnies, misrepresentations, all the weapons of wild and fanatical opposition, have been shamelessly used, and this incitation has been assisted by employers who should have more self-respect. Threats of 'We'll shoot the strikers down like dogs'; 'They ought to be hung on the lamp-posts'; 'We'll crush that sanguinary unionism out'; 'We'll teach them who's master' have been openly made. One gentle minister of religion wished he could get the strike leaders at a whipping-post and have the job of flagellator; he'd 'draw blood every stroke,' he said. Persistently and unremittently a panic among the employers has been worked up by the press and its bloodthirsty assistants, who have spread rumours of general strikes, organised riots, attempts to bring in Communism by force, and other fantasies. As a result firearms are carried by every bank-dealer and adde-pated shopkeeper; special constables have been sworn in from the swell athletic clubs; and a mob of employers waited on the Government in order to terrorise Tozer into proclaiming a sort of martial law. Brisbane is practically being terrorised by Capitalism, which in its miserable fear seems to thirst for the chance to mow a street full of unarmed, inoffensive unionists down with Gatling guns."

But whether the capitalists could carry out these "wild ideas" is exceedingly doubtful. At Newcastle they were threatening to bring the marines and the sailors ashore, to shoot down the miners on strike. A correspondent of the *Sydney Sunday Times* heard one of the marines asked if they were going to shoot the people down. He replied, "Well, we may be sent ashore and we may even be ordered to fire, but I don't think any of you will be hurt." The correspondent, who is certainly no friend of the unions, afterwards got into conversation with the sailors. He says: "He answered my questions with the utmost frankness, and from what he, and scores of his shipmates, told me, I have arrived at the conclusion that it would be folly worse than madness on the part of the Government to seek assistance at the hands of the naval authorities. Such aid might, and probably would, be granted readily enough, but it must be borne in mind that a large majority of the blue-jackets and marines sympathise with the strikers, and, once landed, they might be induced to take sides with them. Were they to do this the consequences that would naturally follow might prove more serious and far-reaching than any of us imagine." This must be nice and reassuring for the capitalist advocates of force.

What has particularly frightened these gentlemen is the fact that the strike has led to a tremendous upheaval of Socialist ideas; the strike and Socialism seems to be the main topic of conversation everywhere. Of course the Socialism discussed is of a very mild type; but even the immense sale of Bellamy's "Looking Backward," and the adoption by the Australian Labour Federation of a Social-Democratic programme, has been quite enough to frighten the capitalists. It is true the Federation only proposes to attain its ends by ordinary political methods, but the red spectre cannot be made alluring even under a robe of legality.

It is difficult to imagine the vast extent of this strike. It is an immense war of labour and capital, extending over a whole continent and affecting even the neighbouring island of New Zealand. On Sept. 7, Sydney and Melbourne were nearly in darkness, owing to the failure of the gas supply. Not only are the gas-stokers out on strike, but most of the miners are also out, or have been locked out by the masters only to there be no ships to carry away their coal. A curious instance of what may be called by the capitalists "retributive justice" is that the strikers' paper, the *People*, was in danger of suppression through the gas-engine that works the press having to stop through the failure of the gas supply. The editor, however, declared the issue would be got out in spite of all difficulties. The *Bulletin* has a cartoon entitled "Melbourne in Darkness." It represents a middle-class man, who has just arrived home with two lamps, addressing his wife. He exclaims piteously: "Yes, my dear, I succeeded in buying a couple of lamps, but they are very scarce, and to get them home safely I had to buy a revolver." The same paper represents the capitalist undergoing many tortures. He is tossed by a cow (Labour) he has been engaged in milking, and as he is flying in the air all the milk (profits) is spilt. Another cartoon shows the capitalist suffering from the horrors of a general strike. In a dream he beholds a hornbilled goblin (Labour) dancing on his chest. He imagines he awakes in the throes of a general strike, and the poor man has to dress and shave himself, clean his own boots, while his wife cooks his dinner; and finally he has to behold his park turned into corn-fields for the proletariat; and at last, owing to "a great shrinkage of values" and a "great shrinkage" of capital's corpulence, he is compelled to work or starve.

From the capitalists to the blacklegs is an easy transition. As in England, so in Australia, the capitalist has a pet name for them—he calls them "free labour." This is not a very honourable term in Australia, as it used to be applied to those convicts who were handed over to private masters by the Government. Well, these "free labourers" are not very efficient at wharf work, but judging by the precautions taken for their safety by the Government and their employers, you would think their lives were the most valuable in Australia. Huge barricades have been erected at the entrances to the docks for their protection. One of these barricades at the P. and O. Co.'s wharf is thus described by the *Sydney Daily Telegraph*. The barricade might be used for the backing of the 22 in. steel armour of a 10,000 battle-ship. The posts, which are 14 in. by 14 in. and about 9 feet in height clear of the ground, are only a few feet apart, and are connected by strong rails and hard wood planking. This huge barricade is at the foot of Argyle Street, and completely shuts in the King's Head Hotel. The barricade also extends across from the street to the edge of the wharf, and at the Circular-Quay side of the P. and O. wharf a similar gigantic barricade is being constructed. The same paper states: "It is painful to watch the efforts of the 'free labourers' in discharging the 'Coromandel.' Six men are incapable of moving a piece of iron casting, and they simply stand and look at each other. After one of them puts in a quiet three minutes in curling a sling round the chain and then giving the order to heave away, a round of cheers from the onlookers greeted the ascent of the dangling ropes." The correspondent, from watching at work, expresses the opinion that a "hospital job" is by no means improbable. As I said before, great care is taken of these free labourers. Special constables, police, infantry, and artillery are all mustered for their

protection; but despite it all, some of them have been rather roughly handled by the men whom they have robbed of their work.

The strikers hold stoutly together, although the capitalists are doing their utmost to crush them. It appears that the wholesale supply of provisions for Sydney is in the hands of about fifty persons all told—i.e., some seven carcass butchers, a dozen or more flour merchants, and the balance made up of merchant grocers and produce importers. It was proposed at a meeting of masters that these wholesale dealers should refuse to sell to retail shopkeepers except for cash, thus forcing the shopkeepers to refuse credit to their customers and so break the back of the strike. However, this plan has not been carried out. Probably the masters thought that it might drive the men—not into submission, but into open revolt.

To fight against the lies of the capitalist press, the strikers have started an organ, which was first known as the *Labour Defence Journal*, but has since changed its name to the *People*. It is a bright little two-page sheet, and its tone shows how wonderfully the Australian workers have advanced in opinion during the last few years. For instance, when the barricades were erected and the streets filled with troops and military, this paper gave some very plain words of warning to the "authorities." It said: "Do the enfranchised people of these colonies intend that the authorities shall turn their cities into garrisoned towns, and continue to barricade and fortify the public thoroughfares, in the interests of private individuals? If it is right that one party in the labour struggle should erect barricades and stand by them, to sweep the streets with Gatlings, it is equally right that the other side should do the same. But we would remind those who are responsible for this deliberate outrage that barricades have, ere now, been the overthrow of the very governments who built them."

An "Appeal to the Friends of Labour" is also worth quoting:

"People of Australia! you are the witnesses of a Titanic struggle—the capitalist press tells you—between Capital and Labour. Disabuse your minds at once and forever! The struggle now taking place before your eyes is between two forms of labour—Labour on the one hand, and labour stolen, disguised under the name of Capital, on the other. The subsidised press of the stockjobbers and labour-filchers denounces this strike! It stigmatises this strike as criminal! It appeals to you, the public, to withhold your sympathy from the strikers! . . .

"Yet your best interests are the interests of every individual man who does not live on the labour of his fellows. Every man who lives without working demands some other man to do two days' work—one day for himself and a day for him that idles. Have you thought of this?"

"You are told this present strike is merely a question between employers and unionists. Oh, no! its ramifications are much more extensive than that. The present struggle is between the Past and the Future. The strikers are to-day fighting for the recognition of a great and vital principle, a principle which underlies all liberty, a principle which ought to be the foundation-stone of every nation which bases its hopes on the realisation of all that is involved in the word 'Democracy'—the principle of the full liberty of Labour to organise for its own protection. . . .

"To you, unionists of Australia; to you, public of workers and toilers everywhere in this great continent; to you, all of you, who live by the sufrage of those who have filched the earnings of Labour; to you who, whether by hand or brain, are compelled to sue for the right to labour,—we appeal, and we appeal with confidence! Your conduct in the past merits that confidence. When humanity has ever sued you for aid, it has never been, hitherto, in vain. Your sympathy in the past has ever been one of acts, not of words. You cannot withhold it now. For our fight is your fight, our danger is your danger. If we fail, what one of your boasted liberties is safe? . . . Combination alone has made Australia the free land of free men. Combination is threatened! Stand firm! Stand by us! Assist us in maintaining the right to combine, for thereby you assist us in maintaining the standard of wages.

"If we are worsted in the struggle, be not indifferent. Your turn will come! All along the line so-called Capital will lift its head for the subjection of the worker! If we triumph, you will triumph with us! If we triumph with your support, we shall remember in your day of need who have been for us and who against us! Labour never forgets her friends. She cannot afford to do so. Labour never forgets her foes, nor the foes of Labour anywhere—witness our conduct in the London dockers' struggle against vested interests and funded exploitation.

"Unionists of Australia! help us now, and we will rally around you when the day of your battle shall also come. Our fight is a fight for life! We are challenged on a vital point; a defeat means death! If we fail, not a single union is safe—for the very principle of unionism is at stake. Every unionist has a vital interest in our struggle. Everything we have won in the past may be lost at the cast of the dice. The Rouseabout, the Shearer, the Mechanic, the Wharf-labourer, the Seaman—every trade is threatened; no branch of labour, however humble, but views with interest and anxiety the present crisis. The very bread of our children depends upon our victory!

"Think not that our defeat will not affect you. What is won by Labour in one land is won by Labour everywhere. What is lost by Labour in one land is lost by Labour everywhere. And that word 'Labour' means the people—it means humanity."

Surely this spirited appeal should stir up all of us to help our gallant comrades in the desperate battle they are fighting. Labour in all countries must recognise the fact that the interests of Labour are everywhere the same, and that the battle which the Australian workers are now fighting is the holy war for social salvation of the workers of the world.

[Since the above was set up, we have received another batch of Australian papers, which explain why Mr. Champion sent that lying telegram the other day. The Australian trade unionists will have nothing to do with him, and he has been unanimously denounced as a fraud by them, both by speech and in the press. In revenge he has tried to wreck the strike. There is no need to advise workmen to take no notice of any statements made by Mr. Champion.]

GLASGOW.—On Saturday afternoon comrades Glasier, Anderson, and Robb distributed literature at Tollcross to the miners and blast-furnacemen. Afterwards, together with comrades Haddow and Brodie of the Trades Council, they went to Coatbridge, where they were prevented speaking by the police; they, however, distributed a deal of literature. On Sunday, at mid-day, Glasier spoke at Jail Square to about 400 people, and collected 4s. 2d. for blast-furnacemen on strike. In the evening Joe Burgoyne spoke at Paisley Road Toll, when 2s. 11d. was collected for the furnacemen.

LEEDS.—We had three of the best, if not the best, meetings of the year on Sunday. Although the weather was very cold, large audiences listened to and applauded comrade Andrew Hall. Collections were—Hunslet Moor, 7s. 8d.; Woodhouse Moor, 9s. 5½d. (the largest we have yet had at these stations); and Vickers Croft, 2s. 4d.—a total of 19s. 5½d. Four and a half quires of *Commonweal* were sold, four Chicago Speeches, and a good number of pamphlets. We only regret that the open-air season is almost ended, but we intend to be as active as we can even in the winter season. Our comrade Hall will speak again in Leeds on Sunday the 9th of November.—G. C.

THE LABOUR STRUGGLE.

Allan and Co.'s "Settlement."

Everyone knows that the dispute with Allan and Co. is settled, for a time at least, on terms which to us seem eminently favourable—to Allan and Co. The men are to be paid by piecework instead of by the hour. The consequences being that while the strong and the skilful may earn more than a tanner an hour, the weak and the less skilled will earn less, and the "full round orb of the dockers' tanner" in their case will disappear. We are getting on. We always had the idea that the Dock Strike was fought for the benefit of the "poor and downtrodden casual docker," who is not usually the strongest and most vigorous of mankind. Now we see that the weakest must go to the wall, and it is only the men who can and will slave their hearts for the benefit of a gang of greedy shipowners, who will get even "decent" wages under the new system.

There is another clause in the agreement we like still less. According to this valuable document, the men undertake in the discharge of grain to continue working, even after they have made a demand for extra money from heat, dust, or any other cause, until an "expert" from Mark Lane has been called and given a decision upon the question raised. We should like a "definition" of the word "expert." Being left, however, to our own unassisted imagination, we suppose it is a gentleman who jobs in corn in Mark Lane. Of course this gentleman will give a perfectly unbiased verdict. Gentlemen who "deal in corn," like those who deal in stocks or "make books" on races, are never rabid reactionaries and are always perfectly unbiased with regard to questions of capital and labour. The only improvement we can suggest in this excellent plan of deciding labour disputes is to get Newton, Edlin, or some other gentleman who adorns the magisterial bench of the metropolis, to settle all similar questions at the docks; and as a further bright idea, we beg to suggest to the "leaders" of the Dockers' Union that he be empowered to give a sentence of six months hard to any strikers who will not conform to his decisions. We are afraid that poor McCarthy, who seems specially selected to do all the dirty work of the "leaders" of the Dockers' Union, has put his foot in it again. We are sure that the men will not be bound by a decision of an "expert from Mark Lane." Why, they have a worse chance from such a tribunal than even from a "conciliation board," and we believe that the "leaders" of the Dockers' Union have in this agreement provided Messrs. Allan with a weapon that may be used with deadly effect against them. In their "prudence" and "moderation" they have given their worst enemies a splendid chance of creating trouble.

The International Seamen's Congress.

The Seamen's Congress which opened at Glasgow on October 6th, was in every way a great success; their union is really international. In addition to delegates from England, Wales, Ireland, and Scotland, delegates were present from New York, San Francisco, Boston, Holland, and Belgium were present at the Congress. The sailors seem very proud of their internationalism, and they made a special point of extending a hearty welcome to their brethren from other lands. We must say the Seamen's Union is in a thoroughly healthy state; there was a sturdy manly ring about the speeches of their leaders when they spoke of the approaching struggle with the Shipowners' Federation. There was none of that feeble flaccidity about them which too often characterises the utterances of Mr. Ben Tillet or Mr. McCarthy. Mr. Plimsoll and Mr. Cunningham-Graham were both present. Although our opinions differ widely we admire Mr. Plimsoll; we can remember the desperate battle he fought for years for the sailors against the murderous greed of the excellent and worst of the capitalist classes. We remember this, and we can reverence and honour this old man who fought in the people's cause when it was not so "popular" among the middle-class as it is at the present time. We are glad the sailors are not ungrateful. One interesting fact came out at a public meeting held after the Congress. It appears that Messrs. Allen and Co., in spite of the good character given to them by the *Star*, have always been the worst of sweaters. They made themselves especially prominent in fighting the Seamen's Union at Glasgow, and they have always been noted for their love of "free labour." Probably the heads of the firm were "good Liberals," and that in the opinion of the *Star* covers a multitude of sins.

Sacking Trade Unionists.

We clip the following paragraph from the *Weekly Dispatch*. It is interesting as showing the spirit of the shipowners, dock directors, and other slave-drivers towards the unions: "Last Saturday night the men employed by Messrs. Cory and Son, Charlton, were called up by the manager, and asked if they intended to stand by the union. The men were unanimous in their determination to stand by the union, and immediately upon giving their answer ten of them were discharged." Messrs. Allen, Norwood, Morgan and Co. are not yet so bold and outspoken in their hostility, but when "the cold weather comes" we may be sure they will be quite ready to follow this bright example.

LEICESTER.—September 14, Andrew Hall spoke three times; large audiences; collected 21s. 2d. Sunday following, John Turner spoke three times. Weather was bad, but it was encouraging to see the people stand in the wet to hear our lectures; we are convinced that no other subject but Socialism would make people stand in the rain. Made five new members on this date. Sunday 28th, Frank Kitz—three addresses, humorous and satirical, much relished by audiences. October 5th, Chambers, Taylor, and Barclay were the speakers. We have averaged 12s. a-week the last four weeks in sale of literature. Are making arrangements for winter course of lectures to be given inside.

MANCHESTER.—During the past month we have done good propaganda work. Good meetings have been held three times every Sunday and during the week. We have had Cores and Samuels of Leeds down several Sundays, and had good meetings and collections and sale of literature. Reeves of Liverpool gave three good addresses Sunday, October 5; and last Sunday Andrew Hall of Sheffield made a grand impression by his fervid revolutionary oratory. In addition to these, our own members—Baillie, Barton, Stockton, and Scott—have helped forward the cause by their efforts in the propaganda of its principles. Altogether we have done a great deal for Socialist propaganda in this district, and intend during the winter to carry it on by a series of indoor lectures and discussions, and only hope that our efforts will help forward the great object of our life—the Social Revolution.

PHILPOT STREET.—Brillerman and other comrades held a meeting here last Sunday night; some opposition, but good sale of literature.

CORRESPONDENCE.

LAUNDRY WOMEN'S CO-OPERATIVE ASSOCIATION.

COMRADES,—We request you to allow us to make an appeal in the *Commonweal* to our Socialist comrades on behalf of a Laundry Women's Co-operative Association which we are about to start. Our rules are modelled as nearly as possible on those of the Socialist Co-operative Federation, and we have entirely adopted the principle of the formation of a common fund, to which individual members can lay no claim.

Our object is to put a stop to the "sweating" which so largely and increasingly exists in the laundry industry, to pay proper wages, to shorten the hours of labour, to provide comfortable and well-ventilated work-rooms, and to raise the workers at the same time from the position of wage-slaves to that of the owners of their own earnings. We also make a special appeal to our comrades as women, for not only do women suffer as wage-slaves but as chattel-slaves also.

It is probably not necessary to enlarge on the sufferings of the present workers in laundries, for as most of your readers are working-men they probably know as well as we do what the sufferings and privations of these women are, but perhaps there are some who may not know that women are now to be found frequently washing in dark, damp, unventilated cellars for 13 hours a day, not even allowed to sit down for half-an-hour in the afternoon to drink a cup of tea, and cases are known of women who have died at the wash-tub from *exhaustion and want of food*.

The collar for which the customer pays, perhaps, a penny, is washed, starched, and ironed by the sweated laundress for a farthing; and women who take families washing in their own homes, frequently work from dawn to midnight for a few miserable shillings which will not even pay the rent. The work, too, is exceedingly arduous, and results in certain disease if not premature death for women ill-fed and ill-clothed.

Considering, therefore, the present miserable condition of the trade, we confidently hope that our Socialist comrades will help us to improve our own condition and that of other women (as we intend to establish branch laundries in various localities as our funds permit) either by taking shares or sending work to our laundry.

The shares are £1 each, but may be held by two or more shareholders. Application for shares should be made to the Secretary, Miss E. Lupton, 59, Selhurst Road, S.E., who will also supply all information desired.—We are comrades (on behalf of the Committee),

Yours in the Cause,

Signed { ANNIE MARSH,
JENNY WILLIS,
IDA MACKENZIE,
EDITH LUPTON, Secretary.

N.B.—Washing will be received from any locality, the carriage paid there and back, and thoroughly good workmanship at moderate prices will be guaranteed.

[We have read the prospectus of the Association, and notice that 5 per cent. will be paid on the shares. We think this is unnecessary, as the Socialist Co-operative Federation has shown that it is possible to carry on a co-operative society without interest. We think it would be better if the new society followed their example. People who really wish to improve the condition of the workers do not want 5 per cent. interest for their trouble, and we are quite sure that ordinary dividend-grabbers are not likely to invest their hard cash in what they would look upon as a "Socialist concern."—Eds.]

"ART FOR THE PEOPLE."

ON Monday, October 20, at the Athenaeum Hall, Tottenham Court Road, W., under the management of the 'Commonweal' Branch of the League, William Morris delivered a lecture on "Art for the People." The proceedings opened with music, and the lecture was well attended. Our comrade Morris having traced the history and development from pre-historic times, when the cave dweller scratched a rude imitation of the mammoth on the walls of his dwelling, and dealt with the imitations which it had undergone under the influence of the ancient Egyptians, the Greeks, the Romans, the Goths, and others, down to the time when the English workman placed in position the last stone of Henry VII.'s chapel at Westminster, asked what had become of popular art in the comparatively short time which had since elapsed, during which England had grown from an island kingdom into a mighty empire, dominating the world. He could tell them in three words. It had disappeared. That was a strange story indeed, and they might well doubt its truth, for the change was so tremendous. So far from people rejoicing in the making and using of artistic things they did not know that art existed. What passed as decorative art was touched by the hand of man, but never by his mind. He worked at it not knowing what he did. The workmen found work a sacrifice, a burden, which they would cast off altogether if they could. Not one hour's work would be done if it were not that the worker feared death by starvation if he left off working. He hoped no one present supposed that under such conditions they could have art which had any life in it. If they did he could not imagine the depth of a stupidity which thought that slavery would bring forth art. The great gulf between the rich and the poor, between the two nations nominally under the same laws, had swallowed up the popular art which had produced our ancient buildings, in which every man's intelligence was subordinated to the great work of art, whereas it was now accepted as a fact that whatever intelligence a non-gentleman might possess he must on no account exercise it during his working hours. In order to win that privilege he must raise himself up and be a gentleman—that is have nothing to do, and exercise his intelligence in doing it. The real artist should be considered as a workman, and he wanted the real workman to elevate himself to the position of an artist. That could not be so long as the labour war went on, which made him sacrifice himself in the interests of his union or of the war which was being carried on. It was a natural law that man must work, and in proportion as he had pleasure in his work so would his life be happy or unhappy. The first thing necessary in order to bring about a better condition of things was that there should be no more poverty, none of those sordid troubles which destroyed the imagination and intelligence, or turned them into other channels. Every man must be certain of earning a due livelihood and those things which were necessary for the mind as well as for the body. All men must have a due measure of rest and recreation for the body and the mind, and the daily hours for such labour as was unpleasant must be very short. Eight hours a day for such toil would one day appear to them an absolute absurdity. All work which was unpleasant should as far as possible be done away with, looked upon as a nuisance. It should be done by machinery; but machinery should never be used as it was now, in doing work in which man could take pleasure and delight. Again, those who were to produce beauty

should live in it. A man's home must be cleanly and orderly, and beautiful. That should not be so hard a thing to accomplish, seeing that the whole world was beautiful, save where man had made it ugly. Men should also be educated and have a due share in the stored-up knowledge of the world—not down to his station in life, but up to his capacity. Lastly, the last claim for labour would come to this, that there must be no class distinctions. All crafts should be honourable and honoured, and every man should be able to raise himself in the respect and admiration of his fellow-citizens by the exercise of his own craft. These were the only conditions under which they could hope to see a revival of popular art, and he asked them whether it was worth while to strive to bring about this happy life to which he had alluded. Some discussion followed the lecture. An appeal for funds on behalf of the Special Propaganda Fund realised 13s. 3½d.; *Commonweal* and other literature went well.

HERE'S A CURSE ON VARMERS ALL.

[NOTE.—We believe the following ballad was modelled upon some traditional songs current among the English peasantry concerning rick-burning. Does any one know whether any old songs of this kind are still current among the people in remote parts of the country? If any one can send us some we shall be glad to publish them.]

I ZEEED a vire o' Monday night,
A vire both great and high;
But I wool not tell you where, my boys,
Nor wool not tell you why.
The varmer he comes screeching out,
To zave 'uns new brood mare;
Zays I, "You and your stock may roast,
Vor aught us poor chaps care."
Chorus—Then here's a curse on varmers all
As rob and grind the poor;
To re'p the fruit of all their works
In — for evermoor-r-r-r.

A blind owld dame come to the vire,
Zo near as she could get;
Zays, "Here's a luck I warn't asleep
To lose this blessed hett.
They robs us of our turfing rights,
Our bits of chips and sticks,
Till poor folks now can't warm their hands,
Except by varmer's ricks."
Chorus—Then here's a curse on varmers all
As rob and grind the poor;
To re'p the fruit of all their works
In — for evermoor-r-r-r.

—From Charles Kingsley's "Yeast."

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.

Propaganda Fund.—F. C. S. S., Is.; A Few Friends (per Cobbinshaw), 2s.

NEW PREMISES FUND.

Collection by Council on October 21st, 3s. 1d.

SPECIAL PROPAGANDA FUND.

Collection at Morris's lecture, 13s. 3½d.

"COMMONWEAL" GUARANTEE FUND.

	£	s.	d.	B. W.	£	s.	d.
North London Branch	0	12	0		0	1	0
J. S. S.	0	1	0				
C. B. (Bordighera)	2	10	0	Total	3	4	0

REPORTS.

SOUTH SIDE BRANCH.—Meeting in Short Street on Friday; speakers Buck-eridge, McCormack, and Miss Lupton; meeting interrupted by gas-stokers, who as usual went in pretty extensively for "gas and gaiters." Sunday morning same place, speakers R. Harding and comrade from North Kensington. R. Harding gave admirable address on "Anarchism." Collection 1s. 10d.; 24 *Commonweal* sold. Afternoon meeting at Coopers' Hall on behalf of East-end bakers, promoted by International Federation; speaker from South Side Branch, Miss Lupton. Evening meeting at Crown Hill, Croydon; speakers Leggatt and Miss Lupton; *Commonweal*, *Freedom*, and *Free Russia* sold. On Sunday, Nov. 2nd, R. Harding will give address in the morning at Thornton Heath on "First Steps in Civilisation," and in the afternoon in Handcroft Road, Croydon, on "Principles in Politics." On Sunday, October 26, at 3 p.m., Miss Lupton will give an "Address to Women" at Short Street.—E. L.

ABERDEEN.—Comrades W. Cooper and Rennie spoke at an open-air meeting at Woodside on Sunday afternoon, October 12th. The indoor meeting was held as usual in the evening, when comrade Bax's "Address to Trades Unions" was read and discussed. The usual open-air meeting was held on Castle Street on Saturday night, in spite of the inclemency of the weather; the speakers were W. Cooper and Leatham.—G. C.

SCOTTISH SOCIALIST FEDERATION—EDINBURGH.—On Sunday last we had a good meeting in Labour Hall, when comrade Howie delivered a very humorous address on "The Energy We Waste," in which he showed up the ludicrous aspect of Capitalism. The lecture was much appreciated. Comrade Ritchie lectured at Leith to a full house. At both meetings there was good discussion.

LIVERPOOL SOCIALIST SOCIETY.—Vegetarian Restaurant, Eberle Street, Dale Street.—Meets every Tuesday at 8 p.m.

LEEDS.—The Chicago Commemoration Meeting will be held here at Oriol Hall, Cookridge Street, on Monday, November 10. Speakers—R. Bingham, Andrew Hall, F. Charles, T. Maguire, H. Samuels, and G. Cores.

SCOTTISH SOCIALIST FEDERATION.—EDINBURGH—Labour Hall, 50 South Bridge. Business meeting, Fridays at 8 p.m. Lecture, Sunday October 26, at 6.30, John Gilray, "Comradeship." LEITH—Henderson Street Hall, Sunday, Oct. 26, at 6.30, Comrade Howie, "The Energy We Waste."

A COMRADE, who has had many years experience as a cook in hotels and restaurants in London and the provinces, is in want of employment.—Apply by letter to T. W., *Commonweal* Office, 24, Great Queen Street, W.C.

LECTURE DIARY.

LONDON.

Battersea.—All communications to E. Buteux, 45, Inwith Street, Battersea Park Road.
Commonweal Branch.—24 Great Queen Street, Holborn, W.C. Tuesdays, Singing Practice. Thursdays, Business meeting. Saturdays, Social Gathering. Sunday, October 26, at 8.30 p.m., Music and Songs, etc., by Members and Friends.
East London.—H. McKenzie, 10 Victoria Dwellings, Clerkenwell Road, E.C. *Hammersmith.*—Kelmescott House, Upper Mall, W. Lecture every Sunday at 8. French Class conducted by Mlle. Desroches on Friday evenings at 7.30.
North Kensington.—Clarendon Coffee Palace, Clarendon Road. Meets every Wednesday at 8 p.m. Band practice every Friday at 8 p.m. On Sunday, October 26, at 7.30, R. E. Dell (Fabian), "The Strange Case of the Socialist Radical."
North London.—6 Windmill Street, Tottenham Court Road. Meets every Wednesday evening at 8 o'clock.
South Side Branch.—E. Lupton, 59 Selhurst Road, S.E., secretary *pro tem.*
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 Sunday evenings at 6.30. Singing practice, etc., Mondays at 8 p.m.
Glasgow.—Members are invited to meet on Thursday and Sunday evenings, at 8 o'clock, in the Secretary's house, 250 Crown Street, S.S. All communications to be sent to that address.
Halifax.—Socialists meet every Sunday at 6.30 p.m. at Helliwell's Temperance Hotel, Northgate.
Hull.—Club Liberty, 1 Beets Court, Blanket Row.
Leeds.—Socialist League Club, 1 Clarendon Buildings and Front Row. Open every evening. Business meeting Saturdays at 8.—International Educational Club, Templar Street. Open every evening. Discussion class every Friday at 8; lectures every Saturday at 4. All kinds of Socialist literature on tables and for sale.
Leicester.—Room No. 7, Co-operative Hall, High Street. Branch meeting on Thursday at 8 p.m.
Manchester.—Socialist League Club, 60 Grovesnor Street, All Saints. Open every evening. Branch weekly meeting on Tuesdays at 8. Saturday, October 25, lecture by Graham Wallas (Fabian), "The Future of Democracy."
Nottingham.—Socialist Club, Woodland Place, Upper Parliament Street. Club contribution, 1d. per week; Dancing every Wednesday, 8 till 10.30—fee 3d.
Norwich.—Members' meeting held every Tuesday at 8.30.
Oxford.—Temperance Hall, 25½ Pembroke Street. First Friday in every month, at 8.30 p.m.
Sheffield.—Socialist Club, 63 Blonk Street. French Class, Tuesday at 8.30. Discussion Class, Wednesday at 8.30. Open-air meetings are held as follows:—Sunday: Monolith, Fargate, at 11.30; Newhall Road, Attercliffe, at 11.30; Pump, Westbar, at 8; Heeley, Maresbrook Park, at 7.30; Monolith, Fargate, at 6.30; Rotherham, College Yard, at 3.15. Wednesday: Nursery Street, Wicker, at 8. Thursday: Bramall Lane, at 8; Eckington, at 6.30. Friday: Duke Street, Park, at 8. Saturday: Woodhouse, at 7.
Walsall.—Socialist Club, 18 Goodall Street, Walsall. Meetings every night.
Yarmouth.—Socialist League Club, 56 Row, Market Place. Open every evening Business Meeting, Tuesday at 8. Singing Practice, Wednesday at 8.30. Discussion Class, Thursday at 8.30. Elocution Class, Friday at 8.30.

OPEN-AIR PROPAGANDA.

SATURDAY 25.

8 Euston Road—Ossulston Street Nicoll and Cantwe
8 Mile-end Waste Mrs. Lahr, Kitz, and Wright

SUNDAY 26.

11 Commercial Road—Union Street The Branch
11 Latimer Road Station North Kensington Branch
11 New Cut—Short Street Miss Lupton, Coulon, and Buckeridge
11.30 Hammersmith Bridge Hammersmith Branch
11.30 Hoxton Church Burnie
11.30 Regent's Park Nicoll and Mainwaring
3 New Cut—Short Street Miss Lupton
3.30 Hyde Park—Marble Arch The Branch
3.30 Victoria Park Commonweal Branch
3.30 Streatham Common The Branch
7 Hammersmith Bridge Hammersmith branch
7 Wormwood Scrubs North Kensington Branch
7.30 Croydon—Crownhill The Branch
7.30 Streatham—Fountain Mrs. Lahr
8 Kings Cross—Liverpool Street The Branch
8 Walham Green—back of Church Hammersmith Branch

WEDNESDAY 29.

7.30 New Cut—Short Street Miss Lupton and Leggatt

FRIDAY 31.

8.15 Hoxton Church Kitz and Mrs. Lahr

PROVINCES.

Aberdeen.—Saturday: Castle Street, at 7.30 p.m.
Glasgow.—Sunday: Jail Square at 2 o'clock; Paisley Road at 5 o'clock. Friday: Bridgeton Cross, at 8.15.
Leeds.—Sunday: Hunslet Moor, at 11 a.m.; Woodhouse Moor, at 3 p.m.; Vicar's Croft, at 6 p.m.
Leicester.—Sunday: Russell Square, at 10.45 a.m.; Market Place, at 6.15 p.m.; Humberstone Gate, at 8 p.m. Monday: Belgrave, at 8. Tuesday: Sanvey Gate, at 8. Wednesday: Braunstone Gate, at 8. Friday: Infirmary Square, at 8. Saturday: "Cross," Belgrave Gate, at 8.
Liverpool.—Landing Stage, Sundays at 11.30 a.m. and 3 p.m.
Manchester.—Saturday: Middleton market ground, at 7 p.m. Sunday: Philips Park Gates, at 11; Stevenson Square, at 3. Monday: Market Street, Blackley, at 8.
Nottingham.—Sunday: Sneinton Market, at 11 a.m.; Great Market, at 7 p.m.
Norwich.—Saturday: Haymarket, at 8. Sunday: Market Place at 11, 3, and 7.30.
Yarmouth.—Saturday: Church Plain Trees, at 8 p.m. Sunday: Priory Plain, at 11; Bradwell, at 11.30; London Boat Landing Stage, at 3; Colman's Granary Quay, at 7. Monday: Belton, at 8 p.m.

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STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES.

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

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

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

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

Thus, while we abide by the old motto

Liberty, Fraternity, Equality,

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

We add to the first motto then this other one—

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

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

COUNCIL OF THE SOCIALIST LEAGUE.

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