

# THE COMMONWEALTH

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WEEKLY; ONE PENNY.

## NOTES ON NEWS.

The Irish members the other night abstained from voting on the Coercion Bill, and thus took the step at last which they ought to have taken at first; but the ugly words "too late" will pursue them; the mischief is done, the time for a great demonstration is lost, and at the cost of great trouble and expenditure of energy, they have been playing into the hands of the Tories all this time. Once more the moral: when you are in Parliament you must play the parliamentary game, even if you know you are throwing away your hand by doing so.

The Federation of Radical Clubs having met and discussed the advisability of holding another great demonstration against the Coercion Bill, has decided to forego it. This sounds disappointing enough; but they were probably right; at the best such a demonstration would not have come up to the Easter Monday show; and even if it had surpassed it, it would have been little use unless the agitation could have been kept up and gone on increasing, and developed into threatenings of something more serious than Hyde Park and Trafalgar Square meetings. For all this the Radicals are not prepared; so they must take the Tory rule quietly, and will probably have plenty of opportunities for the exercise of the useful virtue of patience.

The Unionist chuckers-out at the Kensington Town Hall, who like the honest bravo of past times who insisted on killing his man when paid for it, even when his employer had changed his mind, thought that they were bound to give value for the money received, and chucked out chiefly the wrong persons, have had a narrow escape from gratis lodging in a public building, but are quit for the fright. One of them in his account of his secondary use of a brass curtain rod, embellished the story unnecessarily; but it must be admitted that it is not easy to get clear evidence of what has happened at "a rough and tumble." At the same time one can't help thinking that if they had been Socialists accused of rioting, much clearer evidence would have been forthcoming in all due abundance, and the jury would not have been so scrupulous as to the identity of the rioters.

The frightful sea-tragedy that has just come before the public is miserable and depressing to hear tell of; an under-manned ship and overworked men were probably at the bottom of the slaying of the Malay. But from the first I couldn't help asking myself if the crew would have treated in the same way an English shipmate who from drink-madness or other madness had become dangerous to them? Isn't the jingo spirit which has given us much bigger horrors, from blowing mutineers from guns down to flogging a whole village because one of the villagers has foolishly allowed himself to be shot by a British officer, responsible for this last wretched piece of sordid misery on the high seas?

The tribe of Nupkins seems to be increasing, and the last specimen brought forward (by himself) for exhibition is certainly not a pretty one. One can judge by the behaviour of Nupkins-Newton in this "mistake" which he has made, what his usual conduct is to poor girls who are not "respectable," and who are guilty of the crime which under various names is almost the only one punished by our robber-society—poverty to wit.

It is a curious characteristic of the present day that the stiffest defence of the rights of private property is blended with attempts towards crude State Socialism not merely in the same society, or in the same assembly, but even in the same man. Here is Mr. Bradlaugh, for instance, the doughty champion of the rights of monopoly in one form of the means of production, bringing in a Bill to force people to use their land in the way which he thinks that it ought to be used, or else give them up and be "compensated" for it. It doesn't matter that such a Bill is not likely to pass and would not be effective if it were passed; the intention at any rate is to *compel* people to give up something which they call their property and don't want to give up. It seems not unlikely that Mr. Bradlaugh and Mr. Henry George will presently be running in the same coach. After that we shall see.

The improvement in trade that many persons were so cock-sure of

a few months ago, has gone to join the majority of prophecies now it seems. As gauged by the railway returns we are pretty much where we were last year. Most of those who have anything to do with business, either as employers or employed, will make rather a worse tale of it than that. We were promised a miracle and it hasn't happened. There will be plenty more of that before we have done. W. M.

## THE "LIBERTY - TO - PLUNDER DEFENCE LEAGUE."

THAT the above title befits the L.P.D.L. far better than their own, few can doubt who read the record of their work issued by themselves, or the circular sent by them to M.P.'s and others, asking for opposition to sundry Parliamentary measures. The L.P.D.L. is on the side of "personal liberty;" the "autonomy of the individual" is much too sacred to be interfered with even for the defence of the whole community; Liberty (*and* property) should not be touched by legislative enactment, or anything else indeed; and the L.P.D.L. is just *the* most enlightened, just, magnanimous, and civilised body of people on the face of the earth. Hence the L.P.D.L. feels itself bound to remove as much of the strain as it can from legislative brains, and so steps forward with a tabulated alphabetical scheme of rejection, generously free of charge, that will enable any lawmaker, to the satisfaction of all concerned, without any trouble of argument *not* to make laws. This is very nice for the M.P., who can ask, "Is it on the list?" and so record his vote dumbly; but it may be that in their laudable ambition to "stay the tide of revolution," the L.P.D.L. have unwittingly told the truth too plainly, and thus their curses after all may be blessings in disguise? Suppose even that they may have betrayed themselves as unscrupulous and sordid advocates of legalised plunder and chicanery?

"Your opposition" is "earnestly requested" to a Bill, the object of which is to prevent the payment of any portion of his wages to a farm-labourer in beer, cider, or other alcoholic drinks. Other proposed enactments as to wages that rouse their wrath are: That which amongst other things provides that miners' wages in Devon and Cornwall shall not be withheld from them longer than 14 days; that they shall be paid by weight and have power to appoint their own check-weigher; and that which forbids coal-miners being paid in public-houses. Does not such opposition imply that "liberty" is wanted for employers to pay wages when and how they like, and "liberty" for the workers to take them or—?

"Your opposition" is also asked to two Bills which would render penal the fraud of passing off oleomargarine on the public as butter; fixing penalties, and appointing inspectors. These wicked Bills provide that butter shall be labelled butter, and oleomargarine so marked, and that tyrannical officials shall look to see that it is done. Another proposed measure would compel quarry-owners, lessees, or occupiers, to fence in all quarries, in use or abandoned, for the public safety. To the unregenerate mind the question rises: Does Liberty (*and* property) interfere in the interests of a people frantically desirous of eating oily-margarine for butter, and of dashing itself down quarries? Or, is the sacred name of Liberty (*and* property) invoked on behalf of those who desire to have their hands freed for the reckless and brutal spoliation of all who by ignorance, poverty, or accident are delivered into their hands?

"Your opposition" is of course asked to a measure which enjoins the providing fit and proper means for raising and lowering miners; for supervision of mine ventilation; for precautions in the use of explosives; for covers to cages in the shafts and flanges to the drums; for fencing machinery and fitting boilers with safety-valves and water-gauges; for the keeping of stretchers and bandages. "Your opposition" is requested to the enactment that railroad companies shall adopt the block system; provide for interlocking points and signals; furnish passenger trains with continuous, and goods and mineral engines with powerful brakes; affix to all vehicles such couplings as shall render it unnecessary for men to go between them; provide efficient communication between passenger and guard; adopt a safe standard height for passenger platforms; make monthly returns to the Board of Trade of all men who have been on duty for more than 12 hours at a time or without an interval of 9 hours rest. "Your opposition" is asked to a Bill for the sanitation of London; to provide for the building of healthy houses and the prevention of unhealthy

ones; to look after house-drains and sewers; and generally, to guard the public from epidemics and preventible diseases. All these things you should oppose in the holy name of Liberty (and property). Let mines be slain, their wives widowed, and their children orphaned; let railway passengers and servants be smashed and mangled one by one, or by hundreds at a time; let pestilence and plague stalk rampant or glide slowly through the crowded streets; precautions for common safety would cost money and diminish profits; wherefore let us have none of them: Liberty (and property) forbids them!

"Your opposition" is implored with special fervour, an asterisk directing you to a note saying that engrossed petitions against it, ready for signing (*a la* Bidmead?) may be had from the secretary "free of cost on application." And this fearful Bill, which will no doubt shake Society to its foundations, is only "to give the public unrestricted access along the banks (except riparian gardens not exceeding 10 acres) of all rivers, streams, and natural locks in Scotland for the purpose of fishing for fresh water fish (other than salmon species, except in Crown salmon fishing waters): unless owner has provided a pathway along such banks he shall have no claim for compensation for damage to crops or fences." At first sight not a revolutionary measure; even, apparently, an over-mild one; but, then, think of the possible consequences! Some Wynans or Argyle, as man of Liberty (and property), while strolling over *his* land, by *his* river, under *his* sky, might perhaps come near or even run against poor little Steenie or Sandie, representing "liberty" without property, with cotton and bent pin inveigling *his* valuable minnow or well-preserved stickleback to an untimely fate; having most probably stolen *his* worms for bait. "Your opposition;" can you refuse it? Of course it is not sordid greed that prompts the resistance to this "threatened invasion of their rights;" nor can it be that the Men of Money, having already reserved salmon, trout, and all big fish from the common herd, are now resolved that there shall no minnow move or eel wriggle for any but themselves!

There is little fear that the L.P.D.L. will ever have much support from the masses of the people; strong support it should and will have from all interested in buttressing wrong and upholding monopoly; for wherever there is an attempt to ease the folk of some burden, or to restrict some robbery practised upon them, there is the L.P.D.L. fighting on the side of privilege against the people. In their own statement of work done during five years they boast of crippling or damaging Bills for Inspection of Dwelling Houses; for Security of Corporate Property; for dealing with Bengal Tenants; Irish Labourers; Housing of English Working Classes; Factories and Workshops; Early Closing; Employers' Liability; Continuous Brakes and Better Ventilation on Railways; Merchant Shipping (Fishing Boats); and many others; *not one stroke for the people, but all for the Liberty to plunder*. Individualism seeks to buy "your opposition" with its fine phrases of personal autonomy, individual liberty, and whatnot; but it requites the capitalist more solidly for his subscriptions, in that it fights on his side for his unlimited license to make money as he will. In other words, these are the priests and prophets of the Moloch of Capitalism, some honest in their professions of belief, some not; but all equally harmful and dangerous to the people whom they try to keep quiet in passive submission while thousands upon thousands with their wives and children are iniquitously sacrificed before the monstrous idol, into whose hands they are delivered bound. We seek to cut the people's bonds, and rouse them from their slumber of submission. Their bonds are falling in all lands, and they are stirring as they wake. Can the L.P.D.L., or a myriad societies like it, now rebind the bonds or bring back the fatal slumber? H. HALLIDAY SPARLING.

### THRIFT.

SUPPOSE that all the men in the United States should swear off smoking, for instance, and decide to save the money they spent for tobacco. Of course, this action would result in closing cigar and tobacco factories all over the country, and their employes would be thrown on the labour market to compete with other men in work for employment. The farmers in Wisconsin, Virginia and elsewhere would not find a market for the tobacco raised. And then suppose every one turned teetotaler, so that society could save the 900,000,000 dols. spent in liquor every year. Of course, all the distilleries and breweries and saloons would close, and their employes would join the cigar makers in the search for employment. And then every one could say that the theatre was vicious and should be avoided, and the money spent should be saved. Of course, all actors and theatre attachés would look for something else to do. And then people could say that reading costs too much money. Lots of people have lived till they were 80 to 100 years old and could not read, so we will save that money, and the result would be that type stickers, paper makers, printers, binders, and others in that class would join the army of brewers, cigar makers, and actors. Of course, every one could do as our friend the capitalist says he did, "live two-thirds of the time on bread and water." Of course, the butchers and men at the stock yards, with teamsters, etc., could join the rest that are "out" of work. And if by this time the labour market was not overstocked with men willing to sell their labour at starvation prices, those who were fortunate enough to still have employment could take to wearing cast-off clothing and going barefoot in summer, so as to "save" a little more. Woollen, cotton, and linen factory operatives, and shoemakers, leather makers, etc., could quit work with the various clerks, salesmen, etc., and when the railroads discharged a half or three-fourths of their force on account of dull business, our friend the capitalist could join the rest of the capitalists in urging the governor of the state to call out the militia to put down the "mob," who would be parading the streets shouting for "Bread or Work."—A WAGE-WORKER, in Chicago *Labour Enquirer*.

Since the essential principle on which private property is based is to assure to all persons what they have produced by their labour, it cannot apply to what is not labour product.—*John Stuart Mill*.

### NORFOLK NOTES.

THE Dean of Norwich has been preaching against Socialism. The idiocy shown in his sermon has given an idea of our opponent's weakness, even to our foes themselves. "Honour thy father and thy mother" was his text, and this, he argued, was synonymous with "Honour the powers that are over you." His argument was that as the existing authorities were ordained by God, "it is as profane as it is vain to attempt to subvert them."

But it was not until he tried to deal with the position of the people to-day that he showed how deep his insanity is, and how splendidly he is fitted for his post of priestly boot-licker to the privileged classes. The present division of men into classes, he said, was of divine ordination, and "riches and poverty formed one great means in the hand of God whereby the rich could show their generosity and kindness, and the poor might be trained in the no less beautiful virtues of thrift, industry, and submission to their lot."

"Submission to his lot" is a virtue easily displayed by a dean with £3,000 a-year.

The dean deplored that a great amount of discontent was abroad, and that men were becoming dissatisfied with their position and envying what was above them. Why the deuce did he give grounds for an idea like that by giving up his position as a teacher and taking a deanery at £3,000 a-year?

One part of his sermon was comical enough. He believed that the Queen's Jubilee had roused up the English loyalty to such an extent that Socialism had been practically killed. Strangely enough from the dean's point of view, I was neither stoned nor mobbed on the following Sunday when I spoke in Norwich Market-place. The men whose feelings of loyalty ought to have been roused by the Jubilee to such a pitch that they would never give ear to the "pernicious doctrines" again, listened with enthusiastic approval, and cheered for the Social Revolution most heartily. The prospect of displacing the dean, and giving him a chance to show the "beautiful virtue of submission to his lot," did not seem to arouse their anger in the least.

The feeling of loyalty aroused by the Jubilee is being followed by its reaction of disgust at the whole thing; and society, awaking from its feverish dream of loyal excitement, is beginning to say, Titania-like, "Methought I was enamoured of an ass."

Last week I visited a wretched little court in the heart of Norwich to enquire into a case there. A young man, nineteen years old, had been out of work during the winter, and that meant out of food too. At the beginning of spring he got work as a striker at 6s. a week. Out of this he had to pay 1s. 6d. a week rent for the hole he lived in (a hole not fit for an animal to crawl into) and keep his blind mother. Growing weaker through privation, he went to his work as usual on Monday morning at 6 o'clock, and at 8 dropped dead at his task "Submission to their lot," says the Dean. And this is their lot!

On Sunday morning I held a meeting at Wymondham, and the previous Sunday at Diss. There is a charm in speaking at these country towns and villages, which seem so far away from the ordinary civilised life of to-day. On a glorious summer morning, with the breath of hay new cut around one, and the men lying in rows upon the grass, taking in the sun and Socialism at the same time, there is an inspiration to dream of the coming day, and half imagine it realised, were it not for the faces and clothes of the men, and the homes of them seen here and there.

Might I suggest to other Branches the worth of a plan we have adopted here? One of our great wants is more speaking power. To meet this we have started a Speakers' Class, where we study the economy of the subject and practise speaking. Our country meetings then form fitting starting places for our developing orators, who gradually gain more power and confidence in themselves.

FRED HENDERSON.

When he was in Canada O'Brien looked like a whale, but his recent splash in New York shows him to be but a minnow after all. It is not consistent to fight for the rights of the Irish in Ireland and to stand in with the landlords and bosses who oppress them in America.—*Denver Labour Enquirer*.

In charging the grand jury at Norwich Quarter Sessions, the Recorder "thought it was a matter for great rejoicing that such good feeling existed between the rich and the poor, and they might depend upon it that the kindness of the rich went home to the hearts of the poor, who were thus kept from turning to crime." As a comment on this lie, came, amongst other cases, one in which a labourer aged 52 was indicted on the charge of stealing one calico shirt, value 9d., the property of the Guardians of the Mitford and Launditch Union. Sentence: six months' hard labour. In the same court, John Carr (66) labourer, was charged with stealing a hen, value 2s. Prisoner said he had been out of work and had nothing to eat; he stole the fowl for food. In passing sentence of two months' imprisonment, the chairman said prisoner was "old enough to know better than talk such stupid nonsense." Perhaps his honour intended his kind words to go home to the heart of this poor man, and thus keep him from turning again to crime.—F. H.

**NORTHUMBRIAN NOTES.**

A CONTRIBUTOR to the *Newcastle Chronicle*, who signs himself "Coal Hewer," argues that the proposal to shorten the hours of labour of boys in mines would, if carried, result in a lowering of the men's wages, the stoppage of the double shift system, and the abandonment of the thin seams, the working of which would become unprofitable. This string of calamities is surely exaggerated. A slight increase in the cost of production, and a little trouble in the rearrangement of the hours of work, would really be all that would ensue.

The miners, however, are beginning to lose interest in the reform of mines regulations. They see that every penny spent by the masters for their safety is soon taken from wages. No one, of course, would belittle the importance of saving life and health even under the present system and at a loss of wages; but these reforms have not the great political importance which the Labour M.P.'s wish to attach to them.

No wonder Positivists get a poor name from those who wish a thorough-going social change. Nothing more lame and scatter-brained could be imagined than Mr. Malcolm Quin's letter on the "freedom" of labour for women. The "free contract" nonsense is still held as a great economic truth by many people. The forces that drive women to unsuitable work, and compels them to offer their labour cheaper than men's, are entirely ignored by or unknown to many who assume a profound knowledge of the working of our social system.

The putter boys in Northumberland can scarcely live on the wages they now get. A movement amongst them to demand an increase of wages has failed. At Seghill, Ashington, and other places the movement has collapsed.

On Saturday July 2 I left Northumberland after four months of steady and successful propaganda, leaving the foundation of a Socialist organisation which will soon be as strong in itself as any of the older Socialist bodies. The miners of Northumberland have taken a firm grip of the Socialist doctrines and they are not the men to let them slip again. Donald is carrying on the work of propaganda and organisation in the district.

J. L. MAHON.

**EXCOMMUNICATE THE POPE.**—There is a needless amount of ill-feeling over the threatened excommunication of Dr. McGlynn. A simple way out of the impending collision of interests, and an effectual quietus on all attempts to interfere with the liberty of individuals in this age of enlightenment is this: Let the Catholics excommunicate the Pope.—*N. Y. Standard.*

Little Isaac Moses, whose grandfather began life as an errand-boy and finished as a millionaire, was paid by his mother a penny a-dozen for pins picked up from the carpet, to keep the baby from getting them. "Nurse," said little Isaac, as his stock of pennies increased, "do you know what I am going to do when I have sixpence?" "No," answered nurse. "I am going to buy a paper of pins, and scatter them all over the floor, and then pick them up," replied the young financier, who was barely six years old.—*Co-operative News.*

**BAD TIMES WITH THE WEALTHY.**—In the *Graphic* for June 18 is an article on Yachts, from which I take the following instructive figures, showing the number of yachts possessed by the wealthy in this country in several years, together with their tonnage:

| Year. | No. of Yachts. | Tonnage. |
|-------|----------------|----------|
| 1850  | 603            | 22,141   |
| 1864  | 895            | 39,485   |
| 1878  | 1883           | 89,020   |
| 1887  | 2867           | 130,912  |

It is instructive to notice that bad times have no effect on the increase. The rest of the world owns 1211 yachts as against our 2867.—R. U.

**I KNOW WHEREOF I SPEAK.**—You call yourselves *men*, contemptible shams that you are. You call yourselves *men*, and you cringe before the masters who rob you, you sneak away from meetings frowned on by the police, you shake in your boots at an adverse criticism of a blackmailing capitalist press, you keep your jaw shut when your liberties are boldly and openly stolen, and you go to the polls like cattle to vote a continuance of your own slavery. If my husband were as great a coward as you I would disown him; if my baby boy grows up to be such a sneak I would deny him a mother's love and give him but the contempt of a thinking woman. Are there no MEN in these degenerate days? Are there no souls who dare to even speak for Liberty? Where are the students, where are the youths, where are the brave and earnest young souls, where are the stalwart farmers, and the courageous mechanics of our Early Republic? Where, oh God, are the MEN that dare to speak and to do for Liberty, for Justice, and Truth? Point me not out this coward's spawn and call them the sons of the sires who did deeds that made them worthy of woman's love,—and of places in the Capitol. Their dead mothers blush for them, and their fathers disown them even in the grave. If there be none but these to act as the sentinels of liberty, then, alas! for the Republic, and alas for the helpless women who starve beneath its stars.—ANNA HASKELL, in *Denver Labour Enquirer.*

A civilisation which not only permits but actually encourages the dwarfing of its future citizens, both in mind and body, cannot be said to have reached a desirable stage. In no State in the Union are the deplorable effects of this vicious system more apparent than in this State of New York. I claim that one reason why there are so many idle adults is because there are so many employed children of both sexes. If the system of child labour were abolished to-morrow, idleness would be a thing of the past, crime would be diminished, debauched girls would become fewer, and the country would be healthier and happier every way. It is a grievous fact that children are stunted and degraded in our mills and factories. It is not alone in New York City and other large cities, but in greater degree in the country towns and villages. I believe the factory inspectors of other States have observed a similar condition of things.—*Inspector Connolly.*

**TO A BOY.**

MAN of the Future, what shall be  
The life of Earth that you shall see?  
What strange new facts the years will show?  
What wonders rare your eyes shall know?  
To what new realms of marvel, say,  
Will conquering science war its way?  
Your sight, as years shall pass, shall scan  
New knowledge-gifts, new powers to man.  
Man of the Future, men shall be  
Mightier in act and thought than we.

Ah, yes, but will their knowledge bring  
To fruit the hope to which we cling?  
Will gladness come? will all men call  
A common good the right of all?  
Will knowledge, one with wisdom, dare  
To make all men all comfort share?  
Will want and woe and ignorance cease,  
And war and hate be lost in peace?  
The brotherhood of man to be,  
Will you behold, more blest than me?

See, what the souls Thou mak'st endure!  
O God, have mercy on Thy poor!  
Put in this human heart a thirst  
To cure of human ills the worst!  
But his work of life to give  
All men should have to all that live;  
To pamper self let him not lust,  
But, Christ-like, to be gladly just;  
And may all men be even as he,  
That heaven at last on earth may be.

W. C. BENNETT.

**REPLY TO A PHILANTHROPIC APPEAL.**

The following pertinent reply to a philanthropic appeal has been sent to us by a friend; and as it is general and public in character, we print it as given.

SIR,—I have read your circular with interest, having a sympathy for all educational work and being the father of a family. Moreover, I am convinced that the originators of the movement in which you were sincere persons and were not actuated by selfish aims. I regret, however, to say that it is in my knowledge that the cause of teetotalism is now supported very largely for sinister motives. I personally know teetotallers who aspire to reduce their men's wages by "temperance," and to get their rents increased as well. As to your special branch of the movement, it is, on the face of it, good, so far as it is an educational movement; but the fact remains (and a strong physiological fact it is) that no young people ought to be allowed to have intoxicating drink or intoxicating food. And certainly 200 innocent boys and girls ought not to be paraded before a large audience in an ill-ventilated room till 9.30 on a winter's night, and then turned out into such weather as there chanced to be—which I was greatly pained to see in this village a few months ago. I felt it to be nothing less than a crime, although not premeditated as to results, to have the number of young children cooped up in a hot "pen" and then turned out into the cold at half-past nine o'clock. You presume to treat drink as the cause of all misery (or nearly so). I presume you do so in ignorance of the true cause of misery; and as you are now acting in a public capacity, I beg to submit to your consideration a wider view of the case.

Misery is the result of poverty and ignorance acting and reacting each to produce the other and misery. Ignorance and poverty are produced by slavery, the workers in this country and other so-called civilised countries being in fact slaves, and having the results of their labour as completely taken from them as had the negroes in New Orleans before the Harriet Beecher-Stowe war. Indeed the negroes had the enjoyment of a larger share of the products of their labour than the agricultural labourers of Hertfordshire do. If you will take the trouble to observe, you will find that the present basis of "civilisation" is to give the workers a bare subsistence, just enough to "keep body and soul together" and reproduce the former in the shape of children for the posterity of the robbers (for they are nothing else) to carry on the iniquitous game with. The remainder of the produce of these workers' labour is absorbed by tithes, rents, profits, and dividends, and squandered in a profligacy worse than that of ancient Rome by loungers whose very existence seeks relief in an "effort to escape from the dull inanities and the purposelessness of an idle life" by collecting charities in a so-called philanthropic spirit.

I have not the honour of any acquaintanceship with you; I am merely writing to you as to a person in a public position. I write bitterly, you may say. I am bitter. There have been ten millions of premature deaths during the last fifty years in this much-united kingdom. I am within 300 yards of thirty horses with no back door. I have one child dangerously ill and three recovering from highly infectious though preventible diseases brought into my house by the constant circulation of fever-stricken air from a condemned parish containing 1500 persons and not a drop of pure water unless fetched by those who consume it (in small pails), often by aged and infirm women, and more often by young children not fit to lift half the weight, much less walk with it. With no sewer worth the name, and an abundance of cesspools that have not been emptied in living memory, with the light and air measured and sold, and with water polluted and all but denied; with a simple people carried to the poll under threat of dismissal if they do not vote for a dull aristocrat whose only sincere promise to them is that they shall have pure beer—if he can get it. With these for your gods, you ask us to believe we live in a land which can be improved by Bands of Hope!

The battle against poverty is not to be decided by the blare of trumpets and the beating of bass drums. It is not to be decided either by torchlight processions, thronged arenas, flowery rostrums, and pathetic diatribes against capital. It is to be settled in accordance with the distinctively co-operative principles of modern finance, enlarged and extended so as to cover the entire community. The organisation of trades' unions is a step in the right direction. Those bodies have done many things which they ought not to have done, and have left undone things they ought to have done; but they are founded upon the true principle, and only need to have a more practical direction.—*Nelson Black.*



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

**Communications invited on Social Questions.** They should be written on one side of the paper, addressed to the Editors, 13 Farringdon Rd., E.C., and accompanied by the name and address of the writer, not necessarily for publication.

**All articles are signed, no special significance attaches to them because of their position in these pages. None to be taken as more than in a general manner expressing the views of the League as a body, except it be so explicitly declared by the Editors.**

**Rejected MSS. only returned if a stamped directed envelope is forwarded with them.**

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**Business communications to be addressed to Manager of the COMMONWEAL, 13 Farringdon Road, E.C. Remittances in Postal Orders or halfpenny stamps.**

### TO CORRESPONDENTS.

J. O'C.—Yes. O'Donovan Rossa has published 'Edward O'Donnell: a Story of Ireland of our Day' (S. W. Green's Son, 69 Beekman Street, N.Y., paper 50 c., cloth 1 dol.) and 'Irish Rebels in English Prisons' (D. J. Kenedy, 5 Barclay Street, N.Y., 1 dol. 50 c.). Both are good. His wife has also published a volume of very pleasing patriotic lyrics. John Mitchell's 'Jail Journal' is published by Cameron and Ferguson, Glasgow, 1s. 2d. post free.

#### Periodicals received during the week ending Wednesday July 6.

|                               |                                      |                             |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| ENGLAND                       | Milwaukee (Wis.)—Volkblatt           | AUSTRIA                     |
| Justice                       | New Haven (Conn.)—Workmen's Advocate | Vienna—Gleichheit           |
| Jus                           | Albina (Oreg.)—Weekly Courier        | ROUMANIA                    |
| Londoner Arbeiter-Zeitung     | Corning (Iowa) Revue Icarienne       | Jassy—Lupta                 |
| Norwich—Daylight              | Paterson (N. J.) Labor Standard      | ITALY                       |
| Die Autonomie                 | San Francisco (Cal.) The People      | Milan—Il Fascio Operato     |
| Christian Socialist           | St Louis (Mo.)—Altruist              | Lugo—Revista Italiana       |
| Freedom                       | FRANCE                               | SPAIN                       |
| UNITED STATES                 | Paris—Cri du Peuple (daily)          | El Productor                |
| New York—Truthseeker          | Le Revolte                           | Madrid—El Socialista        |
| Der Socialist                 | Guise—Le Devoir                      | HOLLAND                     |
| Standard                      | Lille—Le Travailleur                 | Hague—Recht voor Allen      |
| Boston—Woman's Journal        | BELGIUM                              | SWEDEN                      |
| Liberty                       | Liege—L'Avenir                       | Stockholm—Social-Demokraten |
| Denver (Col.) Labor Enquirer  | Antwerp—De Werker                    |                             |
| Fort Worth (Tex.)—South West  |                                      |                             |
| Hammonton (NJ) Credit Foncier |                                      |                             |

## THE MORROW OF THE REVOLUTION.

[Our friend, Citizen Paul Lafargue, has communicated the following interesting article to us, which is surely well worth our attention; it is probable that his view of the question will be nearer to that taken by most of us in the League than that of our comrade Bax.—ED.]

OUR friend Bax has treated this question, which we are very full of in France, the country of revolutions above all others; where, since the beginning of the century, with the regularity of a sidereal movement a revolution breaks out every eighteen or twenty years. Permit me to put before you our way of looking at this question.

In 1871, the power fell into the hands of the people when they were not prepared to receive it. In a revolutionary period to take the power is a thing relatively easy; to keep it, and above all to make use of it, is a thing far more difficult. The Commune when master of Paris was not able to take any really Socialist measures; there are numerous causes which explain this helplessness towards Socialism, but which it is not worth while going into at present. However, the bourgeois may be sure, that if ever events should bring the Socialists into power again, the immediate measures which they will take will strike so much at the root of things, that even if the reaction should triumph, it would not be able to bring back matters to the state in which they were before the revolution.

The morrow of the revolution the Socialists will have, 1st., To organise the revolutionary power and provide for its defence; 2nd., To satisfy the immediate needs of the people; and 3rd., To upset the capitalist order of things, and to lay the foundation of the Socialist order.

In France the revolutionary party will find itself face to face with three classes, having different, and even opposing interests; the workman class belonging to the great industries; the peasant class, and the capitalist class with its hangers-on, the little bourgeoisie, industrial and commercial.

In the industrial towns the working-class will be master; they will become so many revolutionary centres, which will have to federate in order to gain the country for the revolution, and to overcome the resistance which may spring up in the commercial and maritime towns.

In the industrial towns the Socialists will have to get hold of the local governments, to arm and give military organisation to the workmen (said Blanqui, "He who has gunshot has bread!"), to open the prisons to let out the petty thieves, and put under lock and key the

big ones, such as bankers, financiers, big manufacturers, land-owners, etc. Not that one would do them any harm, but to treat them as hostages responsible for the good behaviour of their class.

The revolutionary government would constitute itself by simply taking possession, and it would not be till it was master of the situation that it would think of ratifying its acts by so-called universal suffrage. The bourgeois have so long kept the non-possessing classes out of the suffrage, that they must not be over astonished if all ex-capitalists are disenfranchised until the revolutionary party is absolutely victorious.

Up till now in France it has been Paris which has given the word of command, and has made the revolution for all France. This concentration of the revolutionary movement has only been possible because the revolutions of the epoch have not been real revolutions, but ministerial crises accompanied by barricades and musket-shot, and pompous declamations on the great principles of liberty and justice, and other twaddle.

The French are fond of melo-dramatic stage-plays, and the new politicians give them their fill of these to their heart's content. But while the drama is being played out in the streets, these politicians slip into the yet warm places of their forerunners, and economic matters go on their usual road. But since the next revolution must be an economic one, and not a mere change of governors, it will not have just merely to spring up in Paris, but must break out in all the industrial centres, which as soon as the local revolutionary government is constituted, must organise by means of delegations or otherwise the central government charged with the function of taking general measures in the interest of the revolution, and of preventing the formation of a reactionary party.

But in order that the revolutionary government may be supported by the mass of the working class, and in order that even if conquered it may leave behind it a work which no reaction can destroy, it is necessary that it should immediately satisfy the needs of the workers in town and country, and that it should begin the transformation of capitalist property.

It would have to return to the primitive idea of society, and consider all its members as members of an immense family, which would have to provide for the first needs of their lives, until a redistribution of all products could be made on a basis of equality. The revolutionary government would in each city have to house, clothe, and feed all its inhabitants. To that end it would decree all house-property national, and would undertake the arrangement of lodging. It would drive the idle rich from their mansions to install the workers in them, reserving those best situated for families having many children. In Paris, while it would lodge women with child on the first floor, it would relegate to the fifth and sixth floors the big-bellied capitalists, so as to thin them down by staircase exercise. The unwholesome hutches of the poor would be demolished and their sites cleansed by fire.

The revolutionary government would nationalise the big shops of the Peter Robinson and Moses kind, and would treat their proprietors as thieves if they dared to embezzle so much as a single reel of cotton. Commissions would be organised by streets and quarters to distribute the contents amongst the workers, who for the first time in their lives would be clad in the good and handsome stuffs which they themselves have made.

But before lodging and clothing the working population it would be necessary to think about their food. The revolutionary government would set up great common restaurants in the various quarters, where a minimum of substantial nourishment would be given to the inhabitants every day. The cooking would be done in common, and those who wished to eat their meals at home could take away their food: but it would be good to encourage meals in common, so as to develop fraternity and equality. During the revolution of the last century, the Commune of Paris organised fraternal meals; tables were spread in the middle of the streets, and each inhabitant brought his own food there, which was eaten in common.

In order to feed the population, the revolutionary government would take over the provision-stores, wine-vaults, breweries, etc., and would at once organise a municipal catering service, which would put itself into communication with the market-gardeners and small peasants of the suburban country. This service, which would suppress the middlemen between the buyer and the consumer, would allow the peasant to obtain a better price for his products. To gain the peasant over to the revolutionary cause is one of the first duties of the Socialist party, and for that purpose, besides general measures (such as abolition of interest, of debts of all kinds, of taxes and the conscription, etc.) we must not hesitate to increase his gains, and make his labour easier by advancing to him seed and manure of the best quality and the most improved agricultural machines.

The workers of 1848, to allow Louis Blanc, Garnier Pagès, Lamartine, and the other bourgeois of the Provisional Government, to found their Republic, "put three months of poverty at their disposal." When at the dissolution of June the people came to claim the fulfilment of their promise, the bourgeois reaction answered them with grape-shot. The Socialist revolution will begin the foundation of the social-republic by putting three months of comfort at the disposal of the workers.

The party which will take these measures on the morrow of the revolution will be invincible; it will be supported by the mass of the workers, full both of enthusiasm and astonishment at finding a government which is occupying itself with their needs.

PAUL LAFARGUE.

(To be continued.)

## WIMBLEDON AND MERTON NOTES.

We have survived the Jubilee here. The local toadies got up their jubilation in secret, for fear that after what took place at the Drill Hall the dreaded Socialists would mar their plans. The Mitcham celebrators provided a tough dinner to persons over 68, mostly toothless; and their Merton congeners expressed their thankfulness to the Queen for being born by taking an extra dose of preaching and letting off some squibs. We Socialists enlivened the enforced tedium of the day by inundating the neighbourhood with Socialist leaflets. In this wise we met a procession of schoolboys on jubilee parade, and before their teachers were aware of our purpose we had given to every lad a leaflet. "Give them up," shouted the irate pedagogue, when he discovered the nature of the bills, "or I will stop all your medals." These said medals being a bit of tin impressed with the puffy features of *Evictoria*. But the boys refused, and risked their medals. With insinuating manners and, I grieve to say, false speech on our tongues as to the real nature of the "goods" we were disposing of—such as "Take a tract, mum," etc.—we "worked"—to use the expressive but inelegant language of one of our colporteurs—a quantity of leaflets into hands that would otherwise have refused them. Their disgust and horror when they discovered their mistake was laughable, but they nevertheless kept the bills and read them, and so we were rewarded.

Some curious instances occur in the course of this propagandist work, and are, I think, worth noting here. When alone on tram or railway journeys, I take the opportunity of placing the leaflets with which I am always provided on seats of waiting-rooms and vehicles, or where a workman's face is an index of its owner's receptivity, a leaflet is bestowed with a casual remark. "H'm," said a weary-looking young railway servant to me on giving him a bill, "that's what we want in this country, is Socialism." "So," I ventured to rejoice, "you are not afraid of the Socialists?" "Why should I be?" said he; "all my waking hours are spent in watching and working, and I have to submit to tyranny of officials and the insults of these sort of passengers," pointing to a trainload of city men and some members of the "demi monde" intermixed. "Do you think them a useful class?" said I. "I don't know," he answered; "any road, they take it easy—ten till four—and some don't look as if they troubled much." "It is possible," said I, "that they in their shareholding and stockjobbing way are living upon and causing the overwork of you railway men, and under Socialism you would be men, instead of a source solely of profit to those who despise you." "Hear," he said, "and the sooner they are swept away the better." I may supplement the railway-servant's observation by saying that the manners of these hucksters and quill-drivers towards working men in the trains is insufferably contemptuous. It is an interesting sight, and one that is a strange commentary upon the statement that there is no class antagonism except what is stirred up by the Socialist, to see these popinjays and their bedizened upstart women shrink from possible contact or speech with the tired workmen who may chance into the same carriages when they are on the way to and fro their city "operations" and their paltry villas. Snobbery is contagious, and every wretched overworked clerk or shopman imitates it, instead of fraternising with their fellow-workers, the artisan and labourer.

Before entering my train I gave a Jubilee bill to a burly engineer. After reading a few lines only, he said: "Whoever wrote that ought to be locked up." Being the writer a guilty feeling overcame me. I took stock of him. "Here is an amiable specimen," thought I; "whoever writes what this man disagrees with must be imprisoned. What a fossil!" He probably ekes out his wages with the miserable profits of a chandlers' shop, and because he is satisfied in the sense that donkeys are when oats abound, no one else must protest. It is these curmudgeons who comprise what it pleases the scribes of the press to style the bulwark of divinely ordered society. England might wash her hands in the blood of all nations, and tramps and paupers increase, but he has got work, continued work, and with work he is satisfied. "Briton's never shall be slaves."

Leaving this "survival by fitness" I entered the train, into which I had already thrown my leaflets. Presently a number of workmen entered and the train started. The leaflets caught their eye and they speedily read them. Said an elderly man: "It's all very fine for them 'ere Socialists to talk, and what they say is right, but it will never come about. It always was so, rich and poor. We must have a head, and if we was to share out to-morrow we should all be back again next week worse off than before; them 'ere lazy chaps as won't work would collar the lot." I looked fixedly out of the window while a fierce controversy raged betwixt the speaker and the younger men, who, by the way, although they showed the glaring illogic of what is called common sense, in their converse yet were sympathetic to the new idea. I now mildly joined in, saying that I knew something about those Socialists, and had even been in the company of one that very day, who had been my personal acquaintance since he was a child. I asked the first speaker if he had ever heard or read of a Socialist who advocated the sharing out principle, and if he further didn't think that the idle and dissolute had already "collared the lot." Perhaps I diffidently suggested the Socialist might want the mines whence comes the fuel that warms, and the fields where grows the produce that feeds mankind, so as to be the property of the miners and peasants who worked them, instead of the property of the Lonsdales and Fitzwilliams, who neither delve nor dig, but live upon the sweat of other's bodies. If rich and poor, moreover, were as he alleged always to be, did he think it right that the rich should be those who didn't work or produce, and the poor the producers of the riches. The way of the world, I humbly remarked, was a little changed, for the vehicle we were riding in proved it, and would it not be better for the mass of the people to be educated physically and mentally into self-governing men and women than to cling to the selfish slavish idea that there must always be a head, and that head perchance belonging to a rogue or idiot made, in short, of the same material that British hearts are alleged to be made of, viz., tough timber? I asked him, in conclusion, whether he was assured of ending his days free from want, and he sorrowfully shook his head, but he added, "You'll never alter it." The younger men combated this notion, and I made an earnest appeal to them to work in the cause of labour emancipation, and as they left the train they cordially wished me "Good-speed!" and promised me help, and so ended another effort in the favour of the Cause.

In a public-house, where the same cause led to a heated debate, one vituperative antagonist said triumphantly, "Is not the landlord worthy his hire?" but when I asked what reward the landlord of rack-rented fever dens was justly entitled to, deponent said nothing.

F. KIRZ.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

## "CHRISTIANITY, POSITIVISM, AND SOCIALISM."

I must thank comrade Bax for his valuable remarks on the above subject, and ask leave to state my own view clearly.

In the earliest records of Christianity the notion of "holiness" (which is the key-note of many other religions) is subordinate to that of "love," that is, the impulse to do right out of mere regard for others which "saves" men from the anti-social vices. This is the principle expressed in Paul's "All things are yours," John's "Perfect love casteth out fear," and James's "Perfect law of liberty," down to the arch-individualist Luther's

"Wer liebt nicht Weib, Wein und Gesang  
Bleibt ein Narr sein Lebenlang;

(Who loves not wine, woman, and song,  
Abides a fool his whole life long.)

and to this principle the gigantic blunder of asceticism is totally opposed.

Positivism is primarily a philosophical generalisation of the sciences; but whether owing to the personal vanity of Comte, or the genuine necessity for a religious side to the system, an attempt to elevate it into a religion was made. Comte himself, I believe, philosophically forgetful that the feminine nature itself is exceptionally religious, proposed the worship of women, a notion too childish and exaggerated even for modern tendencies of thought. At all events it was, I think, not as a logical necessity but as an empirical expedient that the current and superficial sides of Christianity were absorbed into Positivism. The 'Imitatio Christi' of course went with them; but anything further than that book from the spirit of the early Christian writings can hardly be imagined; as for example, "True quietness of heart is gotten by resisting our passions, not by obeying them."

Socialism among all the great systems of the world, is not alone in aiming at social happiness, but in making it economically possible; in removing the obstacles to the fulfilment of the religious aspirations. It may indeed be necessary and right to accentuate the new half-truth of the perfect man through the perfect society; but if the old half-truth of the perfect society through the perfect man be wholly lost sight of, it will have to be re-asserted some day with unnecessary emphasis.

REGINALD A. BECKETT.

## Extracts from a "Sermon to Parsons," by Henry Broadhurst, M.P.

FROM THE 'CHURCH REFORMER.'

Vast numbers of the people are impressed with the idea that the pulpits of the religious communities, and especially those of the church as established by law, are being used as platforms from which the rights of property are defended and advocated with great force and persistency; while the unjust privileges of the classes, the wrongs done to labour, the neglect of the poor, and the general law of might as against right, are seldom denounced.

In the long struggle for political emancipation and social advancement, I am not aware of any one occasion on which the church has espoused the popular cause and the rights of the poor. By the cause of the poor I do not mean aiding them by the distribution of soup and the loan of blankets. I mean causes and policies that are calculated to enable the workers to provide themselves with the necessaries of life, or, in other words, to secure an adequate reward for their industry.

Ministers must read up and expound the real Christian principle, which insists that we are all members of one family, and that the industrious members of that family have the right to lawfully remove all man-made impediments that stand between them and the necessaries of life. They must also recognise the fact that men were made before laws, and laws should only be made to assist and protect honesty against fraud, and the weak from the oppression and injustice of the strong. That any law which upholds or in any way facilitates extortion, enabling men to reap where they have not sown, is a licence to rob, and should be so endorsed, and treated accordingly. That they who for the sake of economy patronise and avail themselves of cheapness that is only rendered possible by starvation wages, are participators in wrong and oppression.

I think the ministers of our churches would be much aided in getting a firmer grip of the old faith if they had opportunities of fully realising the hardships of a life of labour. This could be done by adding two experiences to their present studies. 1st. Six months as working miners in one of the worst ventilated and worst managed coal mines. 2nd. Six winter months before the mast on the Dogger Bank on board a fishing smack. If an explosion in the mine, or a gale of wind, or some other of the many causes of loss of life in connection with these industries, did not bring their studies to a sudden and final termination, the men that went through these experiences would enter the ministry equipped for their work in a form calculated to give much earnestness and force to the cause which always commanded the special sympathy and aid of their Master.

It is even now not too late for the churches to enter into competition with the secular champions of democracy; but to be successful the competitors must offer the same earnest and honest counsel and practical help in fighting the battles of life as is given to the people by their more secular friends. So far as my limited and personal experience goes, I have but little hesitation in saying that Trades' unionism has kept burning in this country a purer and more practical Christian light than almost any other institution or corporation of men.

Trades' unionists daily practice some of the leading injunctions of the New Testament. 1st. They subordinate personal aggrandisement to the general welfare of their fellow members. 2nd. When any of their members are out of employment they render them substantial and prolonged assistance. 3rd. They provide relief for their sick members and visit them during illness. Some of the unions have for many years, long before Hospital Saturdays and Sundays were heard of, contributed to hospitals and kindred institutions, thus enabling their members to obtain admission by right and not by charity. 4th. When their members are injured too seriously to again live by their usual calling, the unions provide a substantial sum to assist the sufferers to gain a livelihood in some other manner. When accidents are immediately fatal, similar assistance is given to the widow. 5th. Superannuation provision is made for old age. This, if not a sufficient sum for sole maintenance, at least affords considerable help. Other material provision is also made for members and their families.

Now if these are not religious acts they at least embody some of the great principles of Christianity that cannot be properly left out of any religious code.

I ask, what is the record of the church in relation to these associations? I do not of course mean in its individual action, but in its corporate capacity. Have the unions been aided, encouraged, or defended by the church? No; not a word or look has been given to aid them in their prolonged struggle for freedom and just laws. But I fear it would be easy to produce evidence of the contrary position of the church towards these bodies; and not be very difficult to multiply instances similar of what many people consider to be anti-Christianity on its part.

## THE LABOUR STRUGGLE.

BRITAIN.

A strike has taken place in the boot trade at Northampton, caused, it is said, by workmen objecting to deficient ventilation in the workshops.

The railway spike and gimp nail-makers at Halesowen have decided to give their employers notice for an increase of wages.

**THE LANARKSHIRE COLLIERIES.**—The coalmasters last week posted notices at their collieries intimating a reduction of wages by  $7\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. This represents from 3½d. to 4½d. of a reduction per day.

The mill-furnacemen and bolters at Messrs. Willcock and Henry Jones, Rotherham, have been given fourteen days' notice for a reduction of 10 per cent. in their wages. The notice expires to-day (Saturday).

Ironworks in the neighbourhood of Skipton have been stopped, owing to "depression of trade" (i.e., do not produce enough profit), and great distress prevails. Appeals for help have been made on behalf of the ironworkers and their families.

At a large meeting of the workmen—chiefly retort-men—employed at Uppall Oil Works on June 30 it was unanimously resolved to cease work on 7th July, the date that the reduction comes in force, unless the reduction be withdrawn.

**THE CHAIN-MAKERS.**—The majority of the operatives in the chain trade at Cradley Heath and adjoining districts have again ceased work at the various workshops. On Saturday Mr. Homer and other members of the Chainmakers' Association attended a Conference at Manchester with respect to the co-operative movement.

Last week the retort-men employed by the Broxburn Oil Company held a meeting in a field near the works. The deputation appointed at last meeting to wait on Mr. Henderson, manager, not having received any definite reply that the reduction would be withdrawn, the meeting unanimously resolved that unless the notice was withdrawn before the reduction came into effect they would strike work.

The agitation in the bedstead stud and peg trade was shown at a meeting of operatives at Blackheath, when complaints were made that during the past few years enormous reductions in wages had been enforced, amounting in some instances to as much as 40 per cent. It was resolved to come out on strike Saturday July 9 in the event of the employers refusing to concede the 1881 list.

**WAGES IN THE NAIL TRADE.**—A few days ago Mr. John Price, of Rowley, received a communication from an employer at Halesowen, calling his attention to the fact that some of the masters were paying at the rate of 40 to 50 per cent. below the list framed in 1879. Mr. Price at once laid the matter before the officials of the Nailmakers' Association, but it was felt that it would be useless to call a meeting of trade delegates at present.

**STRIKE AT WEST CALDER.**—A meeting of miners and retort-men, numbering nearly 200, was held on July 1 to discuss the proposed reduction of wages. Mr. Alexander Leitch in the chair. After a long discussion, the meeting passed a resolution that a strike take place should the reduction be persisted in by the masters. A deputation was appointed to wait on the manager and inform him of the decision.

**THE CARLUKE MINERS.**—The miners employed in the coal-pits belonging to Shotts Iron Company in the Carluke district have received notice that a reduction of wages will take place, amounting to about  $7\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. Some of the colliers employed at Carluke and Law collieries for a short time past have been working on broken time. On July 1 an open-air meeting of miners was held in the Market Place, Carluke. Mr. Bernard Tracey presided. Mr. Small addressed the meeting, and it was agreed to follow the policy of eight hours a-day and five days a-week, if the miners of Hamilton district should agree to this restrictive policy.

**WAGES IN THE MALLEABLE NAIL TRADE.**—Notice has been given by the masters of the malleable nail trade of Birmingham for a reduction of 10 per cent. in the wages of the operatives. It is said that there is a difference of 20 per cent. in the rates of wages paid in Birmingham and the trade in other centres, and the reduction is asked for to prevent other districts from taking away the trade of the Birmingham employers by underselling. The workmen held a meeting on Tuesday June 28, and unanimously resolved not to accept any reduction, but to do all in their power to bring about the equalisation of the wage prices in the trade throughout the country towards which end, we are informed, the men are prepared to spend £500.

**THE STRIKE OF DUNDEE MASONS.**—This strike still continues, and at present there is no likelihood of a settlement. A number of the employers have given the halfpenny per hour of an increase asked, and work is proceeding at their jobs; but the majority of the masters are still holding out, and their employes decline to resume work at the old rate of wages. Men are now becoming scarce in Dundee, and several employers who have large contracts on hand are anxious for a settlement. Work in other towns is plentiful at present, and a considerable number of men have left Dundee and got employment elsewhere. A number of the quarry-masters in the district have taken a curious action, and a notice which savours somewhat of boycotting those employers who have granted the increase has been issued to the Dundee Master Builders' Association as follows: "Dundee, 1st July 1887.—We, the undersigned quarrymasters in meeting assembled, this day resolved as follows: 'Until the existing dispute in the building trade is settled we shall not supply you with any more material.'"

**MR. BRADLAUGH AND THE SHOE-MAKING INDUSTRY.**—Apropos of the debate on the question "Will Socialism benefit the English people?" now going on in the *Commonweal* between Mr. Bradlaugh and our comrade Bax, several communications have been received from workers in various industries as to the optimistic statements of Mr. Bradlaugh. The shoemaking business has been specially mentioned, and the following remarks are from the letter of a Nottingham workman: "I started in life as hand-stitch workman, or as we term it, a woman's man; as such worked for some of the best shops in country—London, Northampton, and Stafford. I am now a finisher of rivet or machine-sown work; have been employed on half-time this last year or two. The goods that sell in this town are manufactured in the low-wage districts of Kettering, Northampton, and Leicester; Norwich and Bristol are low-wage towns. Now, forty years ago trade may have been bad in those districts or indeed all through the country, but boots and shoes were more generally manufactured in every town or village throughout the kingdom; a workman could tramp from town to town and get work; now he's got to tramp till he gets to the big shoe centres before he gets work. I have sent you your trade report for May, which is issued to us in June; you will

observe that trade is only good in those large manufacturing districts where cheap goods are produced, which proves that big manufacturers are crushing out of existence lesser ones. You will see that the London trade is going to Northampton for cheapness. I might say that, considering the riveting and finishing is a young industry, wages have gone down rather rapidly."

**"MR. BRADLAUGH AND THE TRADE UNIONIST RING.**—The debate in Committee on the Coal Mines Regulation Bill has been chiefly remarkable for the rebuke received by the Trade-unionist M.P.'s at the hands of Mr. Bradlaugh. Messrs. Burt, Broadhurst, and their "tail" in the House have been making every endeavour inside and outside Parliament, to strike a blow at the freedom of women's labour at the pit bank. This attack is being sustained under cover of a thick coating of unctuous philanthropy. It is pretended that the pit-brow women are undergoing a process of degradation, and that they must be saved from themselves and their taskmasters, the colliery proprietors. The lamentations of these Chadbands are of course meant to be misleading. Their benevolence is purely self-regarding. The prime object of trade-unionism, so it is held, is to raise wages. As the presence of these weak women tend to lower rates, they must be cleared out of the way—entirely for their own good and salvation, of course. Mr. Bradlaugh has stripped the parliamentary trade unionist ring of their white chokers and black gloves, and has treated them to a little social philosophy with no humbug in it."—*Jus*, July 1. No man can serve two masters. He cannot be at the same time the advocate of the monopolists and the champion of the workers. There is practically little difference between Mr. Bradlaugh and his ardent admirers of the Liberty and Property Defence League, except that he is to use a mild term, somewhat more illogical. Under these circumstances it seems to me that in selecting such a pronounced antagonist of collectivism to speak at their annual gala, the Northumberland miners are unwittingly endorsing the foregoing insult to the whole body of trades unionists.—T. B.

**THE BOLTON ENGINEERS' STRIKE.**—June 30.—The engineers' strike at Bolton is putting the town into a state of great ferment. The importation of foreign workmen is greatly exciting the men, and last night the streets near the works where it is known that the strangers are located were besieged by great crowds. Near the works of Messrs. Hicks, Hargreaves, and Co., in Crook Street, an immense crowd gathered, and stones were thrown in profusion. Two arrests were made, and a third apprehension took place, but the third man escaped. A rush was then made to the building in a back street where the beds put up for the accommodation of the strangers were situated, and more stones were thrown. The police for a time were powerless, but their number was augmented, and the crowd kept in check.—July 1.—There was renewal of disturbances at Bolton last evening, which culminated in a serious conflict between the police and the populace, by which a number of persons were injured, including an inspector of the borough force. The introduction of two hundred county constables appears to have aroused public feeling, and about six o'clock, in the vicinity of one of the works affected by the strike, a large crowd assembled. Stones and bolts were thrown freely, and a considerable number of windows were smashed. The police drew batons and repeatedly charged the mob, which had got more demonstrative. The conflict lasted over an hour, and many were hurt. Half-a-dozen arrests were made, and the greatest excitement prevails. July 2.—There was a renewal of disturbances at Bolton last evening, and sixty more constables were early drafted to the scene of Thursday night's disorder, making a force there of over one hundred strong. The crowd, numbering quite eight thousand, became very demonstrative at dusk. Walls in the vicinity were pulled down, and the materials used as weapons. The police endeavoured to clear the streets, but failing, the military were summoned from their billets, and on arrival were received with hootings and a fusillade of stones. Order was obtained by keeping the main streets clear, but the greatest excitement prevailed. The public-houses in the neighbourhood of the works affected were closed by order of magistrates. A later account:—The crowd has increased twofold. Hundreds of windows are being wrecked by stones and other missiles. The policemen are powerless. The Mayor and other magistrates, accompanied by the town clerk and magistrates' clerk, have just proceeded to the scene of disturbance, being escorted by the Hussars. The excitement increases, and an outbreak of a serious nature is feared, threats being made to burn the works down. The military are now engaged clearing the thoroughfares amidst showers of brickbats, stones, blocks of wood, and other materials lying handy. The riot was ultimately quelled by the military which charged the mob repeatedly, during which a large number of persons were injured, and one Hussar was thrown to the ground, his ankle being broken. The police tried to effect several arrests, but this was not persisted in owing to a shower of stones. The Mayor and other magistrates remained on the scene until midnight, when the crowd began to disperse. During the struggle at one point fifty persons were knocked down and trodden upon. July 5.—By latest accounts the excitement still continues and the military are camping near the town to be ready for emergencies.

### FRANCE.

The *Cri du Peuple* announces that in a few days (the date is not as yet known) a mass meeting will be held at Paris, under the auspices of the Watching Committee of the XIII. district (*Comité de Vigilance du XIIIe. arrondissement*) in order to publicly denounce a series of inhuman and barbarous practices perpetrated at the sugar refinery, Say and Co., who employ over 4,000 workers. Mind you, that Say is the learned member of the French Academy, the former Minister of Finance of the French Republic, and the most distinguished representative of bourgeois political economy in our nineteenth century! It is impossible to give a description of this hell, where human beings are obliged to work completely naked during fifteen and often seventeen consecutive hours, in holes heated at from 60 to 80 deg., and where they suddenly pass into backcourts, where the temperature is at 15 deg. below zero. The least mistake in the work is invariably punished by immediate discharge! We need not say that these poor refiners, even if they were strong and robust men, soon become weakened and sickly, and die an untimely death. A few days ago a general diminution of one franc has been imposed on all salaries, and so 4,000 slaves are reduced to starvation wages, whereas that abominable Say makes a gross profit of one franc per sugar loaf, and 40,000 sugar-loafs are produced daily! And whilst these miserable slaves have their wages reduced from day to day, and live a life of pain and starvation, that M. Say writes books, voluminous and pedantic, on the accord between capital and labour, and receives the warmest congratulations of the Academy of moral and political science!

At the iron works of *Le Creusot*, where reigns and governs M. Schneider, the blacksmiths, whose salary has been reduced from 5 fr. to 4 fr., have stopped their work and are now on strike. Of course, M. Schneider is an archi-millionaire!—D.

GERMANY.

At Breslau, several perquisitions have been made and proved unsuccessful. But comrade Bruno Geiser, chief editor of the *Neue Welt*, and formerly member of the Reichstag, has been arrested. Nobody knows, not even the police, for what reason.

The deputy Lalance, who represents Alsace in the Reichstag, has been expelled from the very district of which he is the chosen representative. So he sits in Parliament for a province which he is not allowed to visit, and that is one of the "beauties" of the representative system.

Another member of the German Reichstag, the Socialist deputy Kräker, of Breslau, has been arrested on leaving, at the close of the Session, the Parliament. He was taken away by the police on the very steps of the House in which he was sent to represent his fellow countrymen,—and that is another of the "beauties" of the representative system!

From the fifty Socialists who have been tried at Magdeburg, thirty-one have been sentenced to terms of imprisonment varying from nine months to fourteen days.

At Danzig, a dozen Socialists are now on their trial, and although their condemnation has not yet been pronounced, we may fairly say that they will be sent to prison. Their acquittal would be a wonder, and Germany does not work wonders—at least of that kind.—D.

BELGIUM.

The Belgian papers announce that the king of that unfortunate country has presented his son-in-law, the heir presumptive of the Austrian crown, with a splendid estate, situated in Hungary, which he has recently bought for the trifling sum of *twenty-eight millions of francs!* This enormous sum of money has been stolen away from the wretched workers, who receive for twelve, fourteen, and often sixteen hours of labour, a salary varying between 5 fr. (four shillings) and 1 fr. (tenpence) a-day.

As our readers are aware, the members of the Belgian Worker's Party (*parti ouvrier belge*) have made it a part of their programme to try by all means to enter in the town councils, in the provincial councils, and even in the House of Parliament. Although they have succeeded in getting some of their friends in various of these councils, they have of course not obtained anything whatever of all the reforms they aimed at. The same electioneering propaganda is going to commence for the communal elections of the next month of October. However, we are glad to say that the strongest part of the Belgian organisation, the Socialist Federation of Ghent, represented by the *Vooruit* and by the daily paper, the *Toekomst*, have seen at last the fallacies of that representative humbug system, and they declare to the Socialist Federations of Brussels and Liege their intention not to proceed to the ballot boxes in company with the Radicals. As it appears, the Federation of Antwerp is likely to follow the same line as our friends in Ghent.—D.

HOLLAND.

It will be well for Socialists to remember the name of C. G. Bergér van Hengst, the director of the Penitentiary of Utrecht, where our comrade Domala Nieuwenhuys is imprisoned for not having written an article which appeared in *Recht voor Allen*. The tormentor of the Utrecht jail seems to be of the same sort as the chief jailer of the hard labour prison of Halle, in Prussia, he uses the same methods. Domela Nieuwenhuys, who has been very ill and was ordered to have the food of the prisoners at the infirmary, has again been deprived of this "favour." All letters addressed to him are now destroyed. Our comrade Croll, who has power of attorney for Domela, has been refused further permission to communicate with him on behalf of the prisoner's children. In the beginning of his imprisonment he had leave to have books in his cell; all books have now been removed and his detention is in the full sense of the word a most brutal and infamous solitary confinement.

In answer to the growing persecution of Socialists in Holland, our friends have decided to issue their organ *Recht voor Allen* instead of twice *three times weekly*, from the 1st of July, and without any change in the subscription price. Bravo!—D.

OUT OF THE MOUTHS OF CHILDREN.—Nellie: "Let you and I play inventor." Fanny: "How shall we do it?" Nellie: "Why you, the inventor, go in and get some cakes out of the cupboard, and I, the capitalist, come along and eat them all. You'll get all the fame; I'll tell mamma it was you who took the cakes, and she will tell papa."—*Newcastle Chronicle*.

SYDNEY, MAY 21.—SOCIALISM.—A public debate on "Socialism" was held at the Royal Standard Theatre (upstairs), on Wednesday evening. The debate was opened by Mr. A. M. Pilter, of the London Socialist League. He treated the question from an historical standpoint, and dealt very ably with the conflict between labour and capital. Messrs. Flower, Howard, and others led the opposition. Mr. McNamara spoke in favour of Socialism. Another speaker relied mainly on land nationalisation.—*Sydney Evening News*.

The number of persons employed in connection with mines in this country was 600,000, and the quantity of minerals raised annually was between 150 and 200 millions of tons. Every 150,000 tons of that enormous quantity represented a human life lost, very often by causes which were preventable. The juggernaut of selfish mismanagement exacted a tribute of life and limb at a rate which exceeded 25 for every week the whole year round. These accidents were not the result of sudden and therefore presumably unavoidable explosions, but generally of carelessness and selfishness on the part of colliery-owners. Inasmuch as colliers were not in a position to enter into contracts with their employers upon equal terms, the State was bound to interfere for their protection.—A. O'Connor, M.P.: Speech on the Mines Regulation Bill.

SHIPBUILDING ON THE CLYDE.—There is no hope of a speedy revival of this trade. There is an over-production of ships at present; the carrying power is far in excess of the demand. The average tonnage of ships built on the Clyde half-yearly since 1878 has been 126,953 tons, the past half-year only 86,780 tons were built, about two-thirds less than the average amount. The orders on hand give no hope of better times. In a well organised state, instead of masses of workmen hanging about Govan and other places on the Clyde waiting for orders to build ships that never will be given, these men would be drafted up to Glasgow to aid in demolishing Glasgow slums, and in building houses for those families that are at present living in one-roomed houses. Perhaps the Lord Provost and Town Council of Glasgow might consider this suggestion. Where the welfare of the State is at stake, his lordship and councillors should not allow themselves to be terrorised by the holders of "vested interests."—A. K. D.

SPECIAL NOTICE.

The Debate on Socialism.—E. B. Bax's reply is in type, but we are unfortunately obliged to hold it over till next week, as it arrived too late to allow of concurrent publication in the columns of the 'National Reformer.'

THE SOCIALIST LEAGUE.

OFFICES: 13 FARRINGTON ROAD, E.C.

Co-operative Store.—The Committee attend at the offices at 8.30 p.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays. See advertisement on last page.

Monthly General Meeting.—At this meeting the following recommendation by Council was adopted:—"That all London branches do make collections at all open-air meetings for the general expenses of propaganda, such collections to be handed intact to the treasurer. The treasurer to be empowered to allow to lecture secretary the travelling expenses of those speakers unable to bear their own." The reports of *Commonweal* Manager, Ways and Means, Strike and Co-operative Committees were also presented. The following Branches reported on the work done by them since last meeting of members:—Bloomsbury, Clerkenwell, Croydon, Hackney, Hammersmith, Hoxton, Marylebone, Merton, Mitcham, and North London.

BRANCH SUBSCRIPTIONS PAID.

Leicester, South London, to December 31, 1886. Bradford, Croydon, Edinburgh, Hackney, Hoxton (Labour Emancipation League), Hull, Ipswich, Lancaster, Leeds, Marylebone, Merton, Norwich, Shields, to March 31. Bloomsbury, Glasgow, North London, to April 30. Clerkenwell, Hammersmith, Oxford, Walsall, to June 30.

"COMMONWEAL" PRINTING FUND.

W. B. (three weeks), 1s. 6d. K. F. (weekly), 1s. C. J. F. (weekly), 2s.

FOR PROPAGANDA.

Collected—Merton, 1s. 3d. Donation—Mitcham, 1s.

PH. W., Treasurer, July 5.

THE NORWICH PRISONERS' AID FUND.

Medical Student (3rd donation) 2s. 6d. For Mrs. Mowbray—A Few Fabians, per Annie Besant (two weeks), £1. J. LANE, Treasurer.

REPORTS.

BLOOMSBURY.—On Thursday evening last, an important business meeting was held, which was well attended.—U.

CLERKENWELL.—On Wednesday, June 29, H. H. Sparling gave very interesting discourse on "Rebel Songs of Ireland." The meeting closed with "God Save Ireland." On Sunday, July 3, we held a good meeting on Clerkenwell Green, addressed by Blundell, Sparling, Mainwaring, and Wardle. Literature sold well. The usual monthly "social evening" of members and friends was very successful.—A. T. and W. B.

HACKNEY.—H. A. Barker spoke to an attentive audience at the Broadway, London Fields, on Wednesday evening. Graham and Westwood addressed the meeting at the Salmon and Ball on Sunday morning. At the club, on Sunday evening, J. Lane lectured on "The National Loaf, who earns and who eats it." Members are requested to attend these meetings as often as possible.—G. C.

MERTON AND MITCHAM.—Last Sunday morning, Kitz and Eden addressed good meeting on the Fair Green. Collection, 1s. 1d. From Mitcham in the evening, Kitz and Buteux visited Battersea to push *Commonweal*, and distributed a large amount of literature.—F. Kitz.

EDINBURGH.—On Saturday, Donaldson and G. Hossack addressed a meeting at Loanhead. On Sunday, Davidson, John Smith, and J. H. Smith had a large and very attentive audience in the Queen's Park. *Commonweal* sold well.

GLASGOW.—On Saturday afternoon, a very successful meeting was held at Blantyre. Addresses were delivered by Small, Glasier, Gilray, Carmichael, and Paterson. On the same day Gilray, Glasier, and Paterson spoke to a large audience at Cambuslang. They had a good reception. On Sunday forenoon, Glasier and Gilray addressed a meeting in Jail Square. In the afternoon, we held our usual meeting at Paisley Road Toll, Glasier and Gilray speaking. There was a large audience. The police have interfered with our meeting here, and as we intend testing the right of free speech, all friends interested in Socialist propaganda are earnestly requested to turn up there next Sunday at five o'clock.—J. M. B.

LANCASTER.—Are spreading the gospel as usual, in ways most expedient in such a camp of the Philistines as this, and have distributed a number of Jubilee leaflets. Two more of our active members are leaving the place through the practical stoppage of one of our largest and most tyrannical workshops. The always vast procession of unemployed on the main roads between Barrow, Lancaster, and Preston is on the increase. On Friday, at our club-house, had usual gathering, when Leonard Hall read chapters from E. B. Bax's 'Religion,' and we had a genial farewell to our departing comrades.—L. H.

LEEDS.—On Wednesday evening, at new open-air station in Meadow Lane, Hill, Maguire, and Paylor addressed a fair audience. On Sunday morning, Braithwaite, Hill, Maguire, and Paylor held a meeting; and at night in Vicar's Croft a large crowd listened attentively to Maguire, Paylor, and Braithwaite. The quarterly election of Branch officers took place on Friday.—T. P.

NORWICH.—On Wednesday evening last, we held a splendid meeting at Yarmouth, a large audience listening attentively to Henderson and another comrade. On Sunday morning a meeting was held at Diss, and in the afternoon in Norwich Market-place, Henderson speaking at both places. Morley in the chair. In the evening, Slaughter spoke on the Agricultural Hall Plain, Sutton in the chair. At 8 o'clock, the Gordon Hall was well filled. Henderson lectured on the "Marriage Question," brisk discussion; Moore in the chair.—J. S.

WALSALL.—Pelsall was again visited on Wednesday, June 29, and a good meeting on the Green was addressed by H. Sanders, Weaver, and Deakin. At the close there was a little opposition from a teetotal friend, who was ably replied to by Weaver and Sanders to the entire satisfaction of the audience. On Saturday evening, Sanders addressed large audiences in the Market-place, Walsall. During the week the teetotalers have been carrying on open-air meetings with the help of special lecturers, but although publicly challenged by Sanders to debate the point as to whether teetotalism would solve the problem of low or insufficient wages and the difficulty of getting employment, they have not taken it up.

HULL AND GRIMSBY.—On Sunday, June 3, I addressed a series of meetings at Grimsby, where a Socialist body had been started some months ago. I addressed a meeting there in February last, and a number of men met afterwards to form an organisation. They then determined amongst themselves to work locally. They have since held regular meetings, and got together a band of very earnest

and energetic comrades. The meetings were well arranged, and the audiences good and sympathetic. The morning lecture was in the open-air, and dealt with the case of the miners of the North of England. The afternoon address dealt with the attitude of Socialists towards co-operators and trade unionists. A brisk discussion followed. In the evening a large audience gathered at the Hall of Science to hear a discourse on "How Socialism Might be Realised." The scheme seemed satisfactory to the audience, and an interesting discussion ensued. Several new members were enrolled afterwards, and preparations were discussed for extending the work of the society and having more speakers down. Altogether the prospects of Socialism in Grimsby are decidedly hopeful. —J. L. M.

**PECKHAM.**—On Sunday evening W. H. Utley lectured at the Peckham Reform Club on "Socialist Politics." The lecture was well received and a large quantity of literature was sold.

**SOCIALIST UNION (NOTTINGHAM SECTION).**—On Sunday morning in Sneinton Market Proctor and Peacock spoke to a good audience, 2s. 2d. collected. In the Great Market Place at night a large meeting to hear Waine, Proctor and Peacock speak on Socialism; 5s. 6d. collected. At the meeting at the Club four members enrolled.—A. C.

**WOOLWICH.**—Last Sunday R. Banner spoke to a large gathering at the Arsenal gates. Literature as usual sold well. £1 2s. 6d. collected for propaganda.

#### North of England Socialist Federation.

*Sghill* meeting addressed by J. L. Mahon on Friday. *Backworth.*—Good meeting, addressed by A. K. Donald. Fair sale of literature.

*Blyth.*—A large meeting was addressed in Blyth Market-place by A. K. Donald on Saturday evening. Branches of the Socialist Federation will please remember delegate meeting at Grey Mare Inn, Blyth, at 3 p.m., on July 9.

*Newcastle.*—Thomas Mann, S.D.F., has held a number of meetings in the town in the course of the week, which have been well attended. An effort is being made by the branches of the S.D.F. to raise sufficient funds to have a speaker permanently in Northumberland.

*North Shields.*—A. K. Donald lectured on Quayside on Sunday morning to a large audience. Arrangements are being made to give an indoor lecture next week, at which ample opportunity will be given to opponents of Socialism to state their views. Mr. Leslie Johnstone has intimated that he wishes the debate adjourned some weeks.

*Sunderland.*—A meeting was addressed by Donald and Wood on Sunday afternoon. A teetotal employe of the N.E.R., in receipt of 30s. a-week, was indignant at Donald's exposition of the N.E.R. balance-sheet. He thought the shareholders fully entitled to their plunder.

*South Shields.*—An address was delivered by Donald in the market-place on Sunday evening to a good audience. Several new members were made. Friends desiring to join the Socialist party please communicate with J. Wood, 105 Bath Street.

*Consett.*—A. K. Donald lectured at the pump on Monday evening.

### LECTURE DIARY.

#### LONDON.

**Bloomsbury.**—Communist Club, 49 Tottenham Street, Tottenham Court Road, W. On Thursday July 7, at 8.30, F. Verinder will lecture, "Land Nationalisation," 14. Eleanor Marx-Aveling, "Socialism and Political Action." 21. W. H. Utley, "Malthusian Socialism." 28. Business Meeting and Social Evening. August 4. Edward Aveling, "The Value of Brain Work."

**Clerkenwell.**—Hall of the Socialist League, 13 Farringdon Road, E.C. Sunday July 10, at 8.30 p.m. George Bernard Shaw, "Socialism and Radicalism." Wednesday July 13, at 8.30. W. Utley, "Socialist Politics."

**Croydon.**—Parker Road.

**Hackney.**—23 Audrey Street, Goldsmith Row. Club Room open every evening from 8 till 11.30.; Saturday, 7 till 12.30; Sunday 11 a.m. till 12 p.m. Members Business Meeting every Tuesday at 8.30 p.m. Sunday July 10, at 8.30, no lecture. Special Notice—all members are requested to attend Saturday July 9, at 8.30.

**Hammersmith.**—Kelmascott House, Upper Mall. W. Sunday July 10, at 8 p.m. Alfred Howard (Christian Socialist Society), "Christian Socialism not Socialist Christianity."

**Hoxton (L.E.L.).**—2 Crondall Street, New North Rd. Club Room open on Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday evenings from 8 till 11. Singing Class every Wednesday at 8.30. Sunday July 10, Excursion to Rye House. Brakes leave 2 Crondall Street at 9 a.m. Tickets (booked beforehand) 2s. 6d.

**Merton.**—11 Merton Terrace, High Street. Club Room open every evening. Committee every Thursday. Discussions held every Sunday morning at 11.

**Mitcham.**—Corner of Merton Lane and Fountain Place. Club Room open every evening from 7.30 till 11.

**North London.**—Branch meets at 32 Camden Road, N.W., for reception of new members and other business, on Wednesday evenings at 8 o'clock, until further notice. H. Bartlett, sec.

#### PROVINCES.

**Bradford.**—Morris's Dining Rooms, 114 City Road. Wednesdays, at 8.

**Dublin.**—Irish Labour League, Temperance Hall, 57 Francis Street, every Thursday at 8 p.m. Discussion on all subjects connected with Labour Question.

**Edinburgh** (Scottish Section).—4 Park Street. Meets every Thursday at 7.30 p.m. to transact business. Class for the study of 'Das Capital' at 8.30. (See "Open-air" below.)

**Glasgow.**—Reading-room of the Branch, 84 John St., open from 10 a.m. till 10 p.m. daily. Meeting of Members in Rooms on Sunday evening at 7 o'clock.

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

**Hull.**—Address all communications to E. Teesdale, 20 Shakspeare Street.

**Lancaster.**—Addresses every Sunday morning on the Quay Jetty.

**Leeds.**—17 Chesham Street, Sweet Street. Club and reading room open every evening. Business meetings every Wednesday at 8 p.m.

**Leicester.**—Office of Hosiery Union, Horsefair Street. Fridays at 8 p.m.

**Norwich.**—Gordon Hall, 5 Duke Street. Free Lectures every Sunday at 8 p.m. Members' Meeting, Monday at 8. Speakers' Class, Sunday mornings at 10.30 and Wednesday evenings at 8 p.m. Singing Class, Saturday evenings.

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

**Shields** (North and South).—Meetings every Sunday, Quay-side and Market Place. Branch meetings on Thursday nights at the "General Gordon," Bath Street, Maxwell Street, South Shields. Secretary, J. Hearne, 32 Clive Street, No. Shields.

#### OPEN-AIR PROPAGANDA.

##### LONDON—Sunday 10.

11.30...Hammersmith—Beadon Rd. ....The Branch  
11.30...Mitcham Fair Green .....Eden & Kitz  
11.30...St. Pancras Arches .....

11.30...Walham Green .....The Branch  
7 ...Clerkenwell Green .....Blundell  
7.30...Garrett—"Plough Inn" .....Kitz & Bull

##### Tuesday.

8 ...Ossulton Street, Euston Road.....Nicoll

##### Wednesday.

8 ...Broadway, London Fields .....Morris

##### Thursday.

8 ...Hoxton, Pitfield Street .....The Branch

#### PROVINCES.

**Edinburgh.**—Sunday: Queen's Park, 6.30 p.m.  
**Glasgow.**—Sunday: Jail's Square, 1 o'clock; Paisley Road Toll at 5.

**Cambslang.**—Saturday: 6 o'clock.  
**Motherwell.**—Saturday: at 8 o'clock.

**Leeds.**—Sunday: Hunslet Moor, 11; Vicar's Croft, 7.30. Friday: Corner of Christ Church, Meadow Lane, at 8 p.m.  
**Norwich.**—Sunday: Market Place at 3; Agricultural Hall Plain at 7.

**Aylsham.**—Alternate Tuesdays: Market Place, at 7.  
**Dereham.**—Thursday: Market Place, at 7.15.

**Wymontham.**—Sunday: at 11.  
**Yarmouth.**—Wednesday: On the Quay, at 7.30.

**Walsall.**—J. L. Mahon will arrive here Thursday July 14, and address two open-air meetings on that date—on The Bridge, Walsall, at 8 p.m., and High Bullen, Wednesbury, at 6 p.m.

#### NORTH ENGLAND SOCIALIST FEDERATION.

##### MEETINGS—JULY.

Sat. 9—Blyth, Market Place.  
Sun. 10—North Shields, Quayside, at 11 a.m. Sunderland Garrison, at 3.30 p.m. South Shields, Market Place, at 6.30 p.m.

Mon. 11—Consett, Pump near Town Hall, at 7 p.m.  
Tues. 12—Throckley, at 6.30 p.m.

Fri. 15—Backworth, near Market, at 6 p.m.

**HOXTON** (Labour Emancipation League).—An Excursion of members and friends of the above will take place on Sunday first, July 10, to Rye House, by brakes from 2 Crondall Street, Hoxton, at 9 a.m. A few tickets to be had, price 2s. 6d.

**NORWICH BRANCH.**—It was arranged at a meeting of members to have an outing in August, on Bank Holiday, to Cromer. Tickets 4s. 6d. each, including railway fare, dinner, and tea.

**SOUTH-WEST HAM RADICAL ASSOCIATION,** Congregational Schoolroom, Swanscombe Street, Barking Rd.—Wednesday July 13, at 8 p.m. H. H. Sparling, "The Iron Law of Wages." Aug. 24. "The Rebel Poetry of Ireland."

**STAMFORD HILL AND TOTTENHAM.**—Comrades and Friends living in this district desirous of forming a branch of the Socialist League are requested to address John Flockton, 3 Sussex Terrace, Markfield Road, Broad Lane, Tottenham, or to the Secretary of the League, 13 Farringdon Road, E.C.

**WOOLWICH.**—Arsenal Gates, Sunday at 7 o'clock.

#### United Socialist Societies of London.

**ANNUAL EXCURSION TO EPPING FOREST (ROBIN HOOD),** on Sunday July 10, by railway to Loughton Station, for the benefit of the condemned comrades in Chicago. The procession will start from the West-end at 9 a.m., corner of Tottenham Street and Charlotte Street; and from the East end at 9 a.m., from the Club Morgenroethe, Princes Square, Cable Street, with full brass bands, banners, and standards. Trains leave from Liverpool Street Station at follows: morning, 8.53, 9.53, 10.30; afternoon, 12.8, 2.28, 3.22, 5.50.

#### SOCIALIST LEAGUE GROCERY.

13 FARRINGTON ROAD, E.C.

THE STORE is open on Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday evenings from 8.30 till 10.30 p.m. All Grocery Articles can be had at current store prices, or where possible, under. All orders over 10s. will be delivered carriage paid in London.

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