

THE COMMONWEAL

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WEEKLY; ONE PENNY.

NOTES ON NEWS.

PARLIAMENT has offered us a sort of stage-battle over the Egyptian rascality. No one, of course, thought that anything would come of it, though 97 members voted in favour of immediate withdrawal; some of whom perhaps would not have done so if they had thought that their vote would have had any influence in bringing about a withdrawal.

Some of the Radicals were, though they knew nothing would come of it, rather afraid of pledging themselves against our piracy wholly; and moved another amendment, substituting the Yankeeism "in the near future" for "immediate." This raised laughter from the Ministerial benches, as it well might; though probably it would be found that "immediate" would have the same meaning as "in the near future" in the mouth of any capitalistic government.

One of the mediæval Joe Millers tells of an inn which bore the following inscription: "Good wine given away for nothing *to-morrow*." Of course when the sanguine toper who had seen the promised blessing on Monday called for its fulfilment on Tuesday, he was told that *to-morrow* was still ahead. So it will be in Egypt till the bayonet of some other robber is applied to the rear of the British Christian.

A modern American traveller in Persia, after giving an account of the arbitrary and violent acts of the rulers of that strangely long-lived kingdom, which are of the sort with which students of ancient and mediæval history are familiar, and after saying of the peasant, "that if he produced upon land so rich that it easily produces enough to meet his humble wants, any more, it would be simply to render him the victim of extortion," goes on to say, "the people of Persia are as happy as the average of other people!"

This fact, which is borne out by the observation of travellers among peoples under similar conditions, is not so difficult of explanation as the bourgeois observer sometimes thinks it. The Persian labourer works lazily to supply his humble wants, and then stops, *knowing* that anything more he produces will be taken away from him. But we have got our labourers into better order than that. We make the English labourer work industriously *after* he has supplied his humble (very humble) wants, and thereby make him supply our own not so humble wants. The Persian labourer *knows* that everything that can be taken away from him will be taken away, and therefore doesn't vex the kind earth and his own body too much. The English labourer is in exactly the same position of being robbed of what he earns; but then he does *not* know it, and so he sweats away and tries to keep out of the workhouse. Fraud is out and out a better weapon than force, it does the cleaning-out job so much cleaner, let alone its being so much safer—till it is found out.

Among the advantages offered by emigration agents, a free passage to Davy Jones' Locker should figure prominently. Yet it will not be long before the horrible murder of the *Kapunda* will be forgotten by all classes just as dozens of other like cases have been. Nevertheless, while it is remembered (if it is still remembered by those not directly interested in it) let us ask what it was that drowned all those poor souls without remedy, and the answer must be Commercial Profit!

No one who thinks about the event can doubt that it was possible by spending more money to have contrived that the ship should not sink in a few minutes without any chance of getting her boats out; and if people will think a little more they will have to come to the conclusion that in these matters as in others the one thing sought after is "profit." Ships must be made safe enough not to frighten freight and passengers off them, and also not to make them uninsurable, or to risk too much loss if they are not insured. Outside these necessities "applied science" will not be *applied* to the making of people's lives as safe as it knows how, but to making of the owner's profits as safe as it knows how; and if you please, as those profits are made on the *average* of ships and voyages, the loss of a cargo of human beings now and then can be borne by the enterprising owners without their purses or capitalistic lives suffering much. But what fools *we* are to bear it!

In the first of the debates on the subject "Is Socialism Sound?" between Mrs. Besant and Mr. Foote, Mrs. Besant sustained her part

well. Mr. Foote threw no new light on the objections to Socialism, and, as often happens with a clever anti-Socialist debater, he made too much use of the *argumentum ad hominem*, a very feeble weapon if applied to anything more important than a Parliamentary debate.

It was curious to see Mr. Foote in his quality of Land-nationaliser so very bitter against Socialism; in him the lower middle-class prejudices and shibboleths seemed to unite readily with the acceptance of Mr. George's nostrum. Mrs. Besant's exposition of the fallacy of detaching the land from the other means of the fructification of labour was very clear and satisfactory. She also made her position as to the relation between Socialism and Communism clearer than it is in her pamphlet, and I should say had advanced from that position. Mr. Foote, of course, twitted her with this, but not very fairly. Socialists will follow with much interest the progress of this debate.

WILLIAM MORRIS.

"Even Englishmen, in a factory or elsewhere, would be demoralised if their earnings and their status, their lives, in short, depended on the caprice of some employer who could be at one time coaxed and at another time coerced into concessions, and who by occasional cruelty provoked their wrath. What legislators, therefore, must aim at is the elimination of the personal element from the control of the soil. The right of raising rent indefinitely was too great a power to lodge in the hands of a man who might be driven to extortion by the pressure of his own debts; and when the addition was made because the tenant had been industrious the result was robbery, however legalised."—*Daily Telegraph*, Feb. 4, 1887.

The above extract does not look out of place as a note in a Socialist paper. Yet it is cut from one of the most rabid bourgeois journals, and is, therefore, significant as a sign of progress. S.

PROFESSOR FLINT ON SOCIALISM.

SOCIALISTS are entitled to congratulate themselves on the attention their creed is attracting among all classes of the community. The Cause has certainly passed through that period in the history of many another cause, when "few men heed it." Free discussion is before all things desired by the lovers of truth, and this is what Socialists seem to be in a fair way of getting. Confident of the final triumph of truth, we always welcome criticism, whether it be fair and intelligent, or the reverse. If our opponents are bitter and prejudiced against us, unwilling to present our views in any light but an unfavourable one, we gain by the reaction which most certainly sets in when a faithful and clear exposition of our principles is laid before the people. If on the other hand they are honest, impartial, and well-informed, but slow in perceiving the truth of our doctrines solely in consequence of their peculiar training, we reap the fruits of the good seed they are unwittingly sowing.

In this way good work is at present being done for us in Edinburgh. Dr. Flint, Professor of Divinity in the University, is delivering a series of five fortnightly lectures on Socialism to crowded congregations in the Tron Kirk, and a good space in the daily papers has been devoted to reports of the two already over. Taking, in the first one, a general view of Socialism in theory and history, he regarded it, as opposed to individualism, an exaggeration of the claims and rights of society. In his opinion its principal feature is the excessive intervention of the state, the private and personal being absorbed by the public and collective. The statement of a superficial view like this is likely to lead people to imagine that life under Socialism will closely resemble life in a huge, well-regulated prison. But any one who has studied Socialistic literature closely and sympathetically, must admit that such a state of things cannot possibly result if society is reconstructed in accordance with our principles, and that Socialists would be the first to rebel against such irksome and debasing conditions of life. We would build up the new society on the old principles which the Professor, I presume, himself believes in, that it is our duty to bear one another's burdens and to love our neighbour as ourselves. We are fully persuaded too, that not only is it possible to do this without encroaching on individuality or liberty, but that the masses will be enabled to enjoy such freedom and happiness, as they cannot have any conception of in the present age, crushed as they are by the despotic and merciless power of landlordism and capital. As we have often pointed out, the workers in these days

are debarred by their economic circumstances from the possession of any individuality, and are merely human machines for producing wealth for their masters. All their interests are subordinated to this end. But even admitting that some of us would sacrifice unduly the interest of the individual to the good of society, it must not be forgotten that their influence is salutarily counteracted by the teaching of the Anarchist-Socialists, at least of the school represented by *Freedom*. That this is one of the functions of philosophical anarchism is, however, not perceived by Professor Flint; who can see it to be nothing but "individualism in a highly hydrophobic condition."

He maintained also, that under Socialism private property will be largely or entirely done away with, and each will have his work assigned to him, and its value determined for him. A statement of this kind is rather misleading to such as know little or nothing about Socialism, and is likely to cause the people to look askance at it. The fact is, we advocate the abolition of private property in land and capital in the certainty that this would lead to complete freedom of labour, and therefore to the extinction of property in the ordinary sense of the word, which implies the right of a private person to the use and abuse of all the wealth which the law allows him to call his own. It will be seen, therefore, we use the word "property" not quite in the ordinary accepted sense. All articles for consumption, wear and use will remain under the complete control of the individual who receives them in payment for services rendered to other members of the community. Even the instruments of production and distribution, viz., factories, mills, workshops, railways, ships, docks, etc., etc., might remain private property in the sense that the owners of it, who will each possess sufficient to produce the wealth he consumes, might have the complete and entire enjoyment of it, minus the power of using it to extort interest or profits. As no rent will be charged for the land, it will form no constituent in the price of agricultural products as at present. The soil might be cultivated by skilled agriculturalists for the consumers, who would, of course, provide the necessary means of labour, the share contributed by each bearing the same ratio to the total wealth as the portion of the products he consumes to the whole out-turn. Mines and quarries might be similarly managed. Avoiding details, however, we may simply state that the so-called rights of property will be encroached upon only so far as to prevent rent, interest or profits being taken. It is difficult to understand why Professor Flint holds that each would have his work assigned to him without being consulted in the matter, when it is well known that one of our reasons for revolting against the present system is that the tastes, inclinations, and capacities of the individual receive so little attention. And again, I am sure it would be considered no hardship at all, if the value of the individual's work was determined for him in a just manner, and if each was remunerated on exactly the same principles. The Professor must know very well that just now the worker has very little say in the matter; he has surely heard of the "iron law of wages." The remuneration of labour must, of course, remain a matter of periodical social calculation, so long as the forces of Nature which co-operate with man in the production of wealth are inconstant, and so long as the invention, knowledge, and skill of man increase; so that it would be absurd to allow the individual to make an arbitrary estimate of the value of his own services.

In his second lecture Professor Flint denied, at great and quite unnecessary length, the truth of the proposition that "labour is the source of wealth." He treated it as a socialistic tenet, forgetful or ignorant of the fact that Karl Marx in his "ingenious and laborious book" of "verbal and logical juggleries," as the professor called it, says "labour is thus not the only source of the material wealth resulting from the use-values it produces. Labour is its father, as William Petty says, and the earth is its mother." He also asserted, what I submit is false, that we teach the doctrine that mental workers, scientific men, and organisers of labour, do not help in the production of wealth, that only the hand-labourers are the wealth-producers. We maintain, on the contrary, that often many of them do very, very important work for the community, for which they ought to be paid. What we feel is that the payment is too frequently out of all proportion to their deserts, and that anything in the shape of rent, interest, or profits drawn by the organizer of labour above his equitable remuneration, cannot be justified by any law of morality. The lecturer also took certain Socialists to task for teaching that the great end of life is material and physical enjoyment; a doctrine, he said, implying that man is all appetite—all stomach and belly. Those conversant with our literature will readily admit that it would be difficult to point out even one Socialist who takes such a low view of "man's chief end." Indeed, many non-socialists are impressed with the great moral beauty of the Socialistic ideal, and contend that, "human nature" being so depraved and base, our endeavours to realise it are hopeless. We are nevertheless often misunderstood on this point because we direct our attention specially to the alteration of the present economic conditions of society, convinced that as long as they prevail it is impossible to humanise the great multitude of the people. Dr. Flint then considered another view, which he held was advanced by us; that society should not only be organised for the production of wealth, but in the interest of the producers of wealth. He wasted a great deal of time pointing out the antagonism between buyer and seller, consumer and producer, in the present system. Apparently forgetting that such antagonism would not exist in a community conducted on co-operative principles, and unaware, perhaps, that we use the term "producer" in contradistinction to "idler," he rebuked us for advocating a "doctrine directly and inevitably anti-social and as unwise as unjust." Failing to see also that wages are merely a part returned to the worker of the total produce of his labour which is all rightfully due to him, and that only a creature devoid of any semblance of manly spirit would submit

tamely to the robbery of any part of his own, he deprecated our describing wages as the badge of degradation and slavery. After ridiculing the various proposals of St. Simon, Louis Blanc, and Karl Marx as to the method of determining the remuneration of labour, he advocated, as the moral rights labour is entitled to, payment of due honour and esteem to it; suitable education for the working classes with opportunities of rising into the arts and professions; the right of combination to get as much as possible, limited *only* by the rights of private property; freedom of combination to establish collective partnerships, in every way *but* the socialistic. After dilating on his newly-discovered, hitherto-untried and infallible means of obtaining the workers' glorious "New Utopia," he hastened to defend the poor, suffering capitalist (whose justice or generosity, by the way, he did not think it would be safe to trust) from the charges trumped up by us against him, winding up by recommending the teaching of political economy to working-men as the antidote to our baneful influence. In the course of his lecture he sneered at our denouncing usury as immoral in these days of enlightenment, and laughed us to scorn for resuscitating what he calls a mediæval economic error. To expose his inconsistency in this matter as a follower of Christ and his immorality as a social being, must, however, be deferred owing to want of space. J. H. SMITH.

THE BIG BEER "BOOM."

I TAKE the following from 'Barker's Trade and Finance,' a fortnightly circular. It is a splendid illustration of the way in which the vast sums fleeced from the workers are utilised for their further enslavement. The article I refer to is headed "Guinness, Son, and Co.":

"From first to last more than ordinary interest has been taken by investors and the public generally in the floating of the enormous concern of Arthur Guinness, Son, and Co. as a limited liability company. The investment was regarded as a good one, and there was a great rush of applicants for shares, with the result that the amount required was offered many times over. This was sufficient to cause a few days' talk, but nothing more; and had no other special circumstances been connected with the launching of the concern, little would have been heard of it again. In one way or other, however, Messrs. Baring Bros. have contrived to keep the matter before the public, with results which they cannot deem satisfactory to themselves. Above everything, an Englishman does like impartiality, and the impression has been given that in this business a preference has been shown in the allotment of shares."

It is all very fine for the pious to throw up their eyes and say the cause of the misery of England is because the poor drink; but what are our noble and great doing to prevent it, the philanthropic Duchess of Teek included? The following list from the same circular, on the same subject, will show how far the wellbeing of the country is considered by those who have wealth. Why, they simply stick at nothing, as long as they acquire wealth for themselves without exertion on their part.

It appears from a list which has been published in *Money* that fifty persons, consisting of the promoters and others, have had allotted to them ordinary shares to the amount of £1,714,450, and Preference Stock to the amount of £1,044,500, or a total of £2,758,950, out of a total capital of £4,500,000 (excluding the Debenture Stock). The following are the fortunate fifty:—

	Pre-ference Stock. £	Ordinary Stock. £		Pre-ference Stock. £	Ordinary Stock. £
Ardilaun, Lord ...	—	15,000	Hanbury, G.	—	2,000
Baring Brothers ...	317,800	501,050	Herries, Farquhar and Co.	3,750	1,750
Baring, T. C.	16,000	1,000	Hodgson, J. S.	5,000	—
Baring, Sir Evelyn	2,000	—	Lubbock, H. J. ...	3,750	—
Baring, Thomas ...	2,000	—	Lubbock, B. W. ...	3,750	—
Brown, Shipley, and Co.	6,000	3,000	Morgan, J. S. and Co.	60,000	40,000
Bryant, F.	5,000	1,000	Martin and Co. ...	3,750	1,750
Bryant, J. H.	5,000	1,000	Montefiore, J. S. ...	3,000	1,000
Bischoffsheim, H. L.	9,750	4,550	Marborough, Duke of	—	2,000
Benson and Co. ...	1,000	600	McAlmont, H.	5,000	—
Brand, J.	3,150	—	Newgas and Co. ...	6,000	2,100
Beaumont, W. B. ...	2,000	1,000	Norman, C. L.	5,000	—
Chaplin, C.	3,750	—	Praed, F.	2,000	—
Cocks, Biddulph and Co.	3,000	—	Pearse, B. K. W. ...	—	4,000
Fruhling & Goeben	3,000	—	Parser, E. T.	—	2,500
Guinness, Sir E. C.	21,800	835,000	Rothschild and Co.	200,000	150,000
Guinness, Claude ...	—	3,000	Ransom, Bouverie, and Co.	3,750	—
Guinness, Reginald	—	2,000	Skinner, T.	8,000	2,000
Guinness, R. S. ...	1,000	2,000	Sun Fire Office ...	7,000	—
Guinness, Henry ...	1,500	1,500	Scott, Sir S. & Co.	7,500	1,750
Geoghegan, Saml. ...	—	2,500	Teek, Duchess of ...	1,000	—
Glyn, Mills and Co.	175,000	75,000	Tidd, F. A.	3,000	—
Glyn, P. C.	50,000	—	Wertheimer, A. ...	1,000	1,000
Gibbs, A. and Co.	75,000	3,500			
Gibbs, A.	75,000	3,500			
Green, J.	3,000	1,400			
Hambro, C. J. and Son	65,000	45,000			
				£1,044,500	£1,714,450

Here we find that, including the 80,000 shares reserved for the vendor as part of the purchase payment, half a million more than half the ordinary and preference stock went to fifty persons. Amongst the fifty, Messrs. Baring themselves figure for £839,850, the Rothschilds have secured £350,000, Glyn, Mills, and Co. £250,000, C. J. Hambro and Son £110,000, and J. S. Morgan and Co. £100,000. Thus, five firms appear for £1,649,850, and they, together with the vendor and his family, have obtained £2,517,650 out of £4,500,000.

Then the stockbrokers have not done badly. A list is given of fifty

who have secured amongst them £272,680 of ordinary and preference stock.

Amongst them are the following:—

	Preference Stock.	Ordinary Stock.		Preference Stock.	Ordinary Stock.
	£	£		£	£
Brunton, Bourke & Co.	20,000	8,000	Morris, W.	15,000	7,000
Bourke, Hon. H.	3,000	1,400	Mullens, Marshall, & Co.	4,500	2,100
Gramshaw and Co.	4,000	2,400	Renton Brothers	7,500	1,750
Jacobson and Son	3,750	1,750	Ricardo & Woodroffe	4,000	2,000
Laurence, Sons, and Gardner	6,000	—	Ricardo & Co.	7,500	3,500
Morrice, J. C. & C. W.	4,900	4,450	Steer, Lawford & Co.	56,750	8,700

“The contrast is great when we come to the general public. The following is a list of fifty names:—

	Preference Stock.	Ordinary Stock.		Preference Stock.	Ordinary Stock.
Bell, J. F.	—	60	Keogh, M. A.	—	60
Bennett, J.	—	50	Kavanagh, C.	—	30
Bestall, K.	—	50	Lowson, J. B.	50	30
Byron, H. A.	—	30	Lavery, P.	240	—
Curran, W. J.	50	30	Lindsay, A. E.	—	30
Cherry, S. A.	—	50	Lindsay, E. A. M.	—	30
Cherry, M.	—	50	Lindsay, E.	—	30
Cherry, G. P.	—	50	Leeper, N. G.	—	50
Campbell, J.	120	60	Latimer, W. T.	40	20
Curley, J.	120	60	Lyell, G.	—	30
Carson, J.	—	50	Marshall, W. H.	—	50
Caldwell, J.	—	30	McMitchell, T.	50	—
Collins, T.	—	30	McKay, A.	—	30
Dill, J.	—	30	Merrick, L. J. B.	50	30
Evans, R.	—	30	Merrick, O. S.	50	30
Ferguson, R.	600	300	Mitchell, M.	—	30
Green, J.	—	30	Martin, W. J.	120	—
Galloway, R. L.	—	30	Morrison, S. G.	50	30
Hopkirk, J.	—	30	McCummon, W.	—	60
Hamilton, S.	—	60	McDuff, G. T.	120	60
Hughes, W. H.	100	50	Neely, W.	50	50
Johnson, C.	50	30	Preston, Sir J.	—	60
Joyce, J. J.	—	60	Purdy, J.	—	60
Johnson, J.	100	—	Smith, C.	—	30
Kerr, H.	—	30			
Kennedy, C. B.	—	30			
				£1960	£2140

“What a miserable selection of small allotments! Yet, be it remembered, these are fortunate people. A very large proportion of general applicants got nothing at all. Their applications and deposits were returned to them.”

The same paper goes on to state:

“What a plum these allotments have been to those who got them will be seen on reference to the price at which the shares are standing on the market. The ordinary shares are selling for rather more than 75 per cent. above par, and the Preference Stock at 25 per cent. premium. What that means to the large houses who have got the lion's share of the allotment, if they have held their shares and can sell them now, or have sold them at the present premium, can easily be calculated. Messrs. Baring's £839,850 fully paid up will now fetch £1,300,850, or a comfortable profit of £461,000!

Surely if the workers read over these figures carefully, with their considering-caps on, all further comment will be rendered unnecessary.

SARAH S. GOSTLING.

THE LATEST THING IN INTERNATIONAL BURGLARY.

So the harbinger of the gospel and shoddy goods, Stanley, of swash-buckling memory, is again on the rampage, in the interest of his imperial extension and market-lusting clients. A neat little excuse is once more found (they are never wanting). A brother marauder, or philanthropist like the rest of them, with the single-minded desire of extirpating that dreadful curse of slavery—the very mention of which makes the modern capitalist's heart burn with righteous indignation, and long to take to himself the victims if possible, but at all events the natural produce of their lands,—this “worthy pioneer,” then, has been for some time past keeping a corner of equatorial Africa warm for the establishment of a British protectorate. At length, after the necessary rôle has been played of giving out that he is surrounded and his valuable life in danger, his confederate Stanley is sent by the British Government on a marauding or relief expedition, amid the plaudits of the Bourgeois world, to comfort this heroic soul, and with a mitrailleuse of newest construction to correct the refractory African. If Continental complications do not arise meanwhile, we may expect, by the autumn, to see the comic papers resplendent with the well-known figures of their typical whore Britannia and her “fancy man” John Bull, both with holy indignation thirsting for the blood and lands of their barbaric victim. For it is quite possible the Central African may venture to remonstrate with Mr. Stanley before surrendering themselves, “body, soul, and estate,” to him and the vampires whose agent he is. Meanwhile every true Socialist may “drink damnation” to Stanley, Emin Pacha, and all their fellow brigands. E. B. B.

FATHER MCGLYNN.—NEW YORK, Feb. 4.—Father McGlynn has issued a statement, in reply to Archbishop Corrigan's representations, in which he re-endorses the principles of Mr. Henry George's political faith, and re-affirms his declaration to the Archbishop that in becoming a priest he never surrendered his rights as a man and a citizen. Father McGlynn denies the right of his bishop, the Pope, or the Propaganda to punish his participation in the late municipal canvass, or in other political movements, and denies also the right of the Vatican to order him to Rome. He declares, in conclusion, that the vow of obedience taken by a priest is simply a promise to obey the Church in matters concerning his religious duties.—*Reuter.*

NEWS.

(By HOFFMANN VON FALLERSLEBEN. Translated by J. L. JOYNES.)

WHAT wonderful things the newspapers tell
Of the land that we live in and love so well!
What a budget of news we have this day read!
The Countess was yesterday brought to bed;
And to-morrow the Earl will be coming this way;
And the King will perhaps come home, they say;
And the Emperor soon will be going away;
But they all will meet on a future day—
What wonderful things the newspapers tell
Of the land that we live in and love so well!

WHAT wonderful things the newspapers tell
Of the land that we live in and love so well!
Of the outlook they give us an excellent notion;
A titled young man has obtained his promotion;
The chaplain at Court has been given an order;
The lackeys have lace on their legs for a border;
Their Lordships are leaving the town altogether;
And we never have had such fine spring weather—
What wonderful news the newspapers tell!
God bless the land that we love so well!

SOCIALISM AND THE SEA.

WITH all the reek-less fire of a man who has made his Cause his religion, I chanced the other day to be holding forth to a brace of sun-reddened Jack-tars on the *pros* of Socialism. A slumbering indignation, the legacy of some small erstwhile experience of the delicacies of Yankee coasting, had been waked up by their retailing, in the grotesque vernacular traditionally peculiar to the sons of the brine, some by-the-by incidents in the log-book of brute slavery which sailor-men are hammered into on even bitterer lines than the agrarian serf of modern vegetation—for they cannot *get out and walk!* What a damning witness, spattered bloodily, will that log-book be against the Scarlet Whore, Commercialism, in the great Doomsday that is so near, when the shades of her million victims shall “clamour in chorus from the ocean!” Too much—enough—can never be written of the systematic doing to death of men by the notorious coffin-owners, a felicitous process which culminated in the Plimsollian crusade; but there is also this other side in the lives of subordinate mariners who go down to the sea in ships, slaving on maggots and chickory-water for months together on the moody sea, that the employers of their manhood may idle on the land, consuming the spices and tid-bits which the slaves must carry but never touch. And no Plimsoll has yet arisen to fix the enduring-point of the human craft. Any one who has any acquaintance with the commonplaces of a mercantile sea voyage will bear me out in saying that to recount a few sample facts would simply be to induce doubts of my veracity in the minds of the unsuspecting. Circumstance and habit necessarily, I allow, have a proportionable responsibility in the vulgar bullying and brutality so liberally served out to the helpless fore-masters by those angels chartered for the purpose and specially protected by the law, but a little observation and knowledge of things suffices to convince that “commercial exigencies” and long-shore bureaucracy lie at the base of this evil and this shame. Some time ago I read an “objection” to Socialism founded on the stunning assumption that though the cut-and-dried mutations of *terra firma* existence might well be coped with under the New Régime, yet in this particular branch of industry the difficulties would be unsurmountable! For myself, I can't see it, and a detailed examination of the marine machinery in conjunction with the affably loquacious couple in mention has removed the faintest vestige of misgiving. From the standpoint of a propagandist I want to suggest that a (watery) field of labour hitherto not much experimented upon opens up with a prospect that is hopeful. Sea-men are generally manly *men*; their discontent with the economics and domestic injustice of their lot is waiting (amongst Britishers) for the proverbial spark; current rates of wages still further illustrate the Iron Law; and—their united power, politically and in relation to a social crisis, would be gigantic. Our friends in the seaports must recognise all this, and perhaps any suggestion from inlanders will be regarded in an *ultra licitum* light—but, cannot something be done in the way of amalgamating and fraternising the sailors with the international movement? I feel that we *ought* to have an interchange of sympathies, and that we *must*.

LEONARD HALL.

Yes, and to bow the head and bend the social knee to some dudelet, son of millionaire —, feeling all the while that the brainless whiffet is not worth the spittle you feel like whirling at him, and yet to know that you must cringe to get or keep a job. To meet the scornful pityingly-curl'd lip of a disdainful social miss, whose father's fortune could not buy for her brains enough to learn at school, and feel that you are morally and intellectually as far above her as the sun above the cloud-caps, and yet be forced to cringe and crawl to keep a job as family hostler, or get a job of sawing wood. These are social customs which endanger society as much as it is endangered by class laws. Social customs that array the many against the money are subversive of society itself. Too many caged lions in a circus are unsafe, as when one roars he may arouse so many that the keepers will be overpowered, the ringmaster even routed, and the public safety jeopardised.—*Knights of L.*



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

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

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

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

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Subscribers in arrears are notified that the *Commonweal* will not be sent if subscription be not paid up within a fortnight from this date.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

NOTICE TO ALL SOCIALISTIC NEWSPAPERS.—The *Commonweal* will be regularly sent to all Socialistic Contemporaries throughout the world, and it is hoped that they on their side will regularly provide the Socialist League with their papers.

Periodicals received during the week ending Wednesday February 9.

ENGLAND	John Swinton's Paper	HOLLAND	Hague—Recht voor Allen
Jus	Boston—Woman's Journal	BELGIUM	Liege—L'Avenir
Glasgow—Pioneer	Liberty	ANTWERP—De Werker	
Norwich—Daylight	Denver (Col.) Labor Inquirer	ITALY	Milan—Il Fascio Operaio
Londoner Arbeiter-Zeitung	Cincinnati (O.) Unionist	TURIN—Il Muratore	
Cotton Factory Times	Toledo (O.)—Industrial News	SPAIN	Cadiz—El Socialismo
Personal Rights Journal	St. Louis (Mo.)—American Celt	ROMANIA	Jassy—Lupta
Radical	Springfield (Ill.)—Voice of Labor	DENMARK	Social-Demokrater
Worker's Friend	Salem (Oreg.) Advance-Thought	SWEDEN	Stockholm—Social-Demokraten
Anarchist	Portland (Oreg.) Avant-Courier	NORWAY	Kristiania—Social-Democraten
INDIA	Detroit (Mich.)—Labor Leaf		
Bankipore—Behar Herald	Fort Worth (Tex.)—South West		
Allahabad—People's Budget			
UNITED STATES	FRANCE		
New York—Volkzeitung	Paris—Cri du Peuple (daily)		
Truthseeker	Le Socialiste		
Der Sozialist	Le Revolte		
	Guise—Le Devoir		

"GOD SAVE THE QUEEN!"

GREAT BRITAIN, in the estimation of every true-born Englishman and Scotchman, is the most Christian of all nations. It has, according to the words repeated almost every Sunday in the pulpit, "been a peculiarly blessed land." God, it is alleged, has been pleased to vouchsafe to its public "the sincere milk of the word;" and every child is expected to know that the secret of Britain's greatness has been its earnest devotion to the teaching of the Bible. With a generosity, too, becoming its proud position, it has undertaken the mission of conveying the "secret" to all the barbarous tribes of the world; but unfortunately these benighted peoples do not seem to have appreciated its true value or the proper method of applying it, its failure to achieve "greatness" for them being of a very conspicuous character.

Well, in this Christian country of ours, we have what is termed a "National Anthem." Of its popularity there can be no question. It is the perfect expression of the patriotic fervour of every honest Christian Briton. When it is sung, it is sung with vigour and gusto, Tory and Liberal, pauper and peer, school-boy and professor, rising to their feet and uncovering their heads, and vieing with each other in the force of lungs and earnestness of countenance with which they give utterance to its pious and patriotic sentiments. Not only indeed, do loyal people insist on standing uncovered during the singing of the anthem, but they reckon it rank blasphemy for anyone to presume to act otherwise. I have been once or twice myself mildly reminded of this fact, by having my hat crushed down upon my skull as a penalty for daring to exercise the right of private judgment upon the matter. However, being a good Scotchman, if a bad Briton, I have comforted myself with remembering that Robert Burns was once, for a similar act of impiety, bundled head and heels out of the theatre at Dumfries. Burns, however, almost deserved this treatment as a retribution for his writing in a moment of patriotic enthusiasm, stimulated by the threatened French invasion, the somewhat equivocal lines:

Who will not sing, "God save the King,"
Shall hang as high's the steeple;
But while we sing, "God save the King,"
We'll ne'er forget the People.

Our National Anthem is an indispensable institution. No theatrical performance, concert, or public entertainment; no civil or political demonstration can appropriately terminate without it. Children are taught to sing it in schools, and elephants to perform to its strains in menageries. It is alike in request in announcing the arrival of

the village circus, and in celebrating the instalation of the Chancellor of a University. Nor is the sphere of its popularity confined to secular uses—it has even upon occasions displaced the venerable Psalms of David in our national and dissenting churches. Some time ago one of Her Majesty's chaplains was discoursing upon Socialism to a fashionable congregation. Towards the conclusion of his sermon he dwelt upon the dreadful state of things that would supervene if Socialism should prevail—the possibility of which so roused his indignation, and his indignation in turn so filled him with a fervour of commingled piety and loyalty, that—with the view I suppose of exorcising himself and his congregation from the pernicious effects of even the thought of Socialism transpiring—he called upon the people of God to join with him in singing "God save the Queen!" And the people of God did join with him, and sung the anthem with electrifying force and unsurpassed depth of devotion—clinging as fervently to the refrain as the crew of a sinking ship clings to a top-gallant spar.

There is one verse of this truly touching and beautiful hymn which deserves particular notice. It is always rendered with especial volume and spirit, and may be said to be the grand *motif* of the piece:

O Lord our God arise!
Scatter her enemies,
And make them fall!
Confound their politics,
Frustrate their knavish tricks,
On her our hearts we fix—
God save the Queen!

What quaint emphasis lies in the expression, "And make them fall!" Now, what I think must be evident to every impartial mind is, not only the ingenuous magnanimity of those lines, their excellent accordance with the history and spirit of our nation, but the Christian humility that pervades them, and especially the closeness with which they paraphrase the injunctions of the Scriptures: "Love your neighbours as yourself;" "Love your enemies;" and "Do good to those who revile you and spitefully use you." When, too, we remember that these lines (applied to George III. as "God save the King") were sung *against* our American brethren during the War of Independence, we cannot but discern how admirably Christian sentiment compounded with politics is adapted to make manifest "the fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man."

It might be argued, Why ask God to save the Queen? If there is any lady in the land who knows how to take good care of herself, *at other people's expense*, it is surely Her Majesty. We give her several hundred thousand pounds a year to provide her with the decencies and comforts of life, supply her with palaces and yachts and keep them in repair, pay lords and ladies to attend upon her; we do all this and get nothing in return save insult and injury. Surely if any body in the world could get on without the special assistance of the Almighty, it is the Queen. Seeing we do all the "works" for her, we might reasonably leave her to do the "prayer" part of the business herself. If we asked God to save the poor old women who are starving in the slums of our cities, or cast out to die upon roadsides by ruffian landlords in Ireland and the highlands of Scotland, there might be some reason in our supplication; but to howl to the creator of the universe for his special protection to a self-satisfied, over-fed, greedy, scandal-mongering old relic of an etete despotism, is surely downright impertinence not to say patent blasphemy.

But let us be prepared. This is the Jubilee of Her Majesty's most beneficent reign, and "God save the Queen" with a forty million power of lungs and brass bands will soon re-echo through the kingdom. We will have probably more of "God save the Queen" in this one year than in all the last fifty years put together. A terrible thought! Let us hope the ordeal, even if it cracks our ears, will not crack our heads; and that if it does not bring judgment down from the skies it will waken the long-slumbering Demigorgon power in the hearts of the people, which will rise and drag despotism and plunder down into the void.

J. BRUCE GLASIER.

LITERARY NOTICES.

We have received the first three numbers of the *Revista Italiana del Socialismo*, a monthly review published at Imola. It is a welcome addition to Socialist publications, and contains articles of interest by Andrea Costa, Dott. N. Colajanni, P. Schiaparelli, and others.

We have received a very interesting pamphlet, 'The Land Scheme of the Eurasian and Anglo-Indian Association,' published by the Association at the Mint Street, Madras. It describes a scheme for industrial villages and peasant proprietorship to be carried into effect in the Mysore Province. Although his remedy is so inadequate, the writer explicitly recognises that the position of a working farmer under a proprietor or landlord is one of "subjection or slavery pure and simple."

Dr. W. C. Bennett, the veteran song-writer, who has on several occasions contributed to the *Commonweal*, has in the *Liberal Home Ruler*, of Jan. 22 and 29, a poem called 'Locksley Hall,' being an appeal from Tennyson's 'Locksley Hall Sixty Years After' to the original 'Locksley Hall.' It is a stirring poem with a true democratic ring, its keynote being "Now, though Lords may mourn at changes that the wise years swiftly bring, Demos's shall be the future; his will be the hymns we sing."

Articles of interest to Socialists:—*Fortnightly*: "The State of our Trade," Geo. Howell, M.P.; "The Mir and the Police," Stepiak. *Westminster*: "State Education in America," "The Art of Government," "Plato's Moral Mission," "The Rent Question in Ireland." *Scribner's*: "Reminiscences of the Siege and Commune of Paris," E. B. Washburne. *Century*: "Relative Strength and Weakness of Nations," Edward Atkinson. *Contemporary*: "Ireland, 1782 and 1886," by Lord Edmond Fitzmaurice.

THE P. M. G. AND CAIRENE MORALITY.

THE *Pall Mall* has been at a loss for sensations lately; so much so that Sir William Thompson's prediction of the probable end of all things terrestrial in 30,000,000,000 years (we forget the exact figures, but from a practical point of view a cipher or two more or less doesn't matter much) had to be pressed into the service as though it were an imminent declaration of war between France and Germany. An extract from Mr. Cotter Morrison's new work on the probable future of Christianity was also made to do duty in default of a "latest telegram." But at last Mr. Caine has come home from Egypt to the rescue with a real genuine *Pall Mall* grievance, a sort of thing that ought to have a good run. The English Government has actually been so remiss in its duty, after four years' occupation, as not to have made any attempt to dragoon either natives or "occupiers" into teetotalism and sexual abstinence. Nay, it has even dared (not, it is true, from humane motives, but with a view to the "efficiency" of its best troops) to make some sort of attempt to check the spread of that divinely appointed pestilence, syphilis.

Now, all these things must be stopped, says Mr. Stead, as his hair rises. Temperance and stern morality must be enforced in the city of the Khedives. What? shall Egypt be evacuated? Oh dear no. The high-commercial and Christianising mission of England must be fulfilled. The empire must be extended, but in the interest of the factory and the clearing-house, not the grog-shop and the brothel. Of course, all Socialists know that these four great institutions are indissolubly connected, and that where you have the first two you are bound to have the last in some form or shape, law or no law, and so probably does Mr. Stead. But this will not prevent the ex-"Northumbrian boy" from continuing to puff imperial-extension schemes, or from affecting indignation at certain of their inevitable results, in the interest of the "great evening journal."

This last grog-shop business should help to fill up the time till the next aristocratic divorce case comes on. E. B. B.

CAPITAL AND LABOUR IN STAFFORDSHIRE.

AFFAIRS in Staffordshire are now in a very depressed state. Wages are being everywhere reduced, and the only refuge for the proletariat is the workhouse. At Stafford an extensive strike is anticipated in the boot trade. In some "shops" the Cutlan heeling machine is displacing labour, and in others reductions are being made. Fifty men are now out on strike against a reduction proposed by Messrs. Harris and Marson. Boots are made in four classes, for which of course a graduated scale of wages is paid, and the effect of the proposed changes will be that what will be still practically a second-class boot will be paid for at third-class wages, and the firm will profit the difference. All the extras previously allowed are also to be cut off, and the total reduction is estimated at from 20 to 30 per cent. The state of things in these modern factories has been well illustrated lately. At Stane Local Board the inspector of nuisances recently reported that a ventilator in Messrs. Bostock's factory there *opened into a cow-shed*. Of course nothing was done by the Board. Again, at Stafford police-court lately an apprentice was summoned for not doing his work. The employer, Mr. Riley, admitted that there was no coal that week (Jan. 3 to 10), and that the fire was fed with "patches," or shreds of leather. The reader can imagine for himself what heat is likely to be caused by smouldering leather. The employer's foreman also admitted that the stove was a bad one and smoked when lit, and that the shop was cold. The defendant further alleged that there was a broken window near where he worked, and that he was too cold to complete his allotted task. In the face of this the respectable Riley had the impudence to maintain that the "shop" was in a proper state. Where is the factory inspector? Another interesting case came before the same bench. A labourer was summoned for not providing his six children with adequate food and clothing, "he having the means and ability to do so." The children, it appeared, were half-starved and thinly clad; lived in two rooms in which there was hardly any furniture, and slept with their parents in one bed. On the other hand, the defendant said he could only earn 6s. or 7s. a-week at his work, and was unable to get them more food unless he stole something. Asked why he did not apply to the relieving officer, he said his wife did and was offered *an order for the workhouse*—that dreaded bastille of the working class. The prosecution was evidently so preposterous that even the capitalist magistrates had to adjourn the case in order that evidence might be procured as to the man's means. A specimen of the treatment this family would have met with in the workhouse was afforded at Walsall police-court about the same time, when several able-bodied paupers were charged with neglecting to pick 4 lb. of unbeaten oakum. It appeared that the poor wretches' fingers did not move fast enough for the task-master at the workhouse, but also that one of the defendants had done more work than any other able-bodied man in the house. The mayor said it seemed an extraordinary thing that the man who did most work should be prosecuted, and the case was dismissed.

The strike among the South Staffordshire chainmakers continues, and the men are still undergoing great privations to raise their starvation wages and to put a stop to the infamous "truck" system which flourishes there. Efforts are being made to start a co-operative chain-factory in the district. P.

Labour fighting for its rights in detachments has but a very slight chance of winning.

SOCIALISM IN THE PROVINCES.

LANCASHIRE is one of the best fields for Socialist propaganda in Britain. There the factory system is to be found in its most typical form. It is dotted all over with huge mills, which are nearly uniform in their aspect and methods of working. The people have a common experience, and look at questions in much the same light. The whole county in fact is one big manufactory, and the people live in that dull, rigid, and cheerless "equality" so much dreaded by the critics of Socialism. The people of Lancashire have gone through several generations under the capitalist system, and the result would form a curious and fruitful study for the economist. The death rate is the highest in England, the employment of women and children is very extensive. Of course, this employment of women has a frightful result as shown in the infant mortality. The relation between capitalist and labourer are not exceptionally bad, because where the whole family, father, mother, and children, can work in the mills, the family income is fairly large when all are employed, and even in times of distress it seldom happens things are so bad that the mother or some of the children cannot find something to do. The relations between the manufacturer and the small shareholders on one side, and the bankers and speculators on the other, would also form an interesting and profitable study. If some intelligent banking official could be converted to Socialism and induced to undertake such a piece of work, and do it thoroughly, he might earn immortal fame thereby.

The meetings I addressed in Manchester were not so successful as might be expected, chiefly for want of proper organisation. At Ashton there was a large gathering of people, who listened very carefully, and a Branch of the League can soon be formed there. At Hyde a successful open-air meeting was held, and was followed by an indoor lecture to a good audience. Enough names to form a Branch were taken, and the work of formally starting it and pushing the propaganda further was left to an energetic comrade who had just come to live in the place. On Sunday evening I spent a pleasant hour with the members of the Salford Branch of the S. D. F. On Tuesday afternoon I happened to be in the County Forum, a city temperance restaurant, where frequent discussions are held in the large room. On the previous Saturday night comrade Utley had opened a discussion, which led to an animated set-to between the Socialists and the Radicals. Tuesday was market day, and the place was well filled with a decidedly respectable audience. Some misconception of my views must have got abroad, for much to my surprise I was asked to open a discussion on "The Future of the Liberal Party." However, I accepted the invitation, and proceeded to explain how the Liberal Party was but the political expression of the capitalist class. That the interests of trade and commerce was all they concerned themselves with, and that these interests were at variance with the interests of the working-people; that in the near future the Liberal Party would go to the devil, pushing the Tories in front of them and dragging the middle-class Radicals behind, and that the sooner this happened the better. The speech was received with warmth but not enthusiasm.

On Tuesday night there was a good gathering at Blackburn. The meeting was held in the Market-place, and the attendance was about 500. Afterwards a meeting of Socialists was held to discuss various party matters.

On Wednesday I reached Preston, where no public meeting was held, but I spent the afternoon in talk with comrade William Sharman from whom I got a great deal of information. In Preston there is little chance of a Branch being formed at present, and the interests of the propaganda can best be served in other ways. Of Preston's 100,000 inhabitants, 45,000 belong to the Established Church, 35,000 are Roman Catholics, and only one-fifth of the population are Dissenters, while the mortality is abnormally large and the morality abnormally low. Still there is a good deal of Socialist opinion abroad, though the frightful respectability of the place makes it dangerous for anyone to hold unorthodox opinions upon any question—especially the Property Question. There is an Eclectic Society in connection with the Unitarian Chapel, in which Socialism is ably represented.

On Thursday, Feb. 3, I visited Darwen. No public meeting was held, but a few Socialists met to discuss the future of the propaganda in the town. A Socialist society had been in existence, but from various causes broke up a few weeks ago. It was agreed that another meeting of Socialists should be called in a day or two and a Branch of the Socialist League formed. From Darwen I went on to Lancaster, where a very successful campaign has just finished. A detailed account will be given next week.

Feb. 7.

J. L. MAHON.

A COCKROACH'S FUNERAL.—When Mahon addressed the meeting in the Market Place at Norwich, two middle-class people were standing on the verge of the crowd. One was a police inspector, the other a well-known tradesman. Quoth the police-inspector, "It's a lot of use trying to put down the Socialists, isn't it?" "Yes," said the tradesman, "it is like a cockroach's funeral. You kill one and a hundred appear in his place."

The tendency of trade schools has been, and always will be, to reduce wages. Jay Gould, with the operators "graduated" from his Missouri Pacific schools of telegraphy, not only broke the continental strike of operators in 1883, but has succeeded in greatly reducing the wages of these mechanics all over the South-west. As it is in the South-west, so it will be in New York. Every one of these "graduates" will be a menace to unionists in any demand for wages, hours, or fair treatment. They are taught the "good old principle of Ben. Franklin," that if you can't get a dollar a-day, work for fifty cents; if you can't get fifty, work for twenty-five.—*John Swinton's Paper*.

THE LABOUR STRUGGLE.

This department is under the direction of the Strike Committee. Labour News and Contributions to the Fund should be sent to T. BINNING, at the Offices.

BRITAIN.

About 450 men employed at the Silksworth Colliery, Sunderland, have received notice to cease their employment. Depression of trade is alleged as the reason for the stoppage.

The whole of the miners employed at the Treharris Collieries, Rhonda Valley, have struck work against proposed reductions amounting in some cases to about 30 per cent.

The miners employed at the Manvers Main Colliery (1,200 in number) have struck work, owing to several grievances which, it is alleged, they were unable to get settled. The men are in no association; but it is expected they will join the Barnsley Association.

After lasting 25 weeks there are at last good indications of a termination of the Staffordshire chainmakers' strike, several of the employers having agreed to grant the advance demanded.

The agitation amongst the seamen of the Tyne for an advance of wages is maintained. At meetings of the men held at North and South Shields, resolutions have been adopted pledging them to stand out for the advance.

At Sunderland, the result of a ballot amongst the seamen and firemen, showed that 21 were content with the present wage (28s. per week), and 301 were in favour of enforcing the demand for an increase to 30s. 4d. per week.

Great distress exists amongst the Lanarkshire miners. A report just received, too late, however, for this issue, discloses such a shocking state of things as might even provoke a "wicked" word from Mr. Bradlaugh.

THE NORTHUMBERLAND MINERS.—In reference to the compromise suggested by Mr. Morley, M.P., in the matter of the Northumberland miners' strikes, there have voted for the continuance of the strike 8238, and for the 10 per cent. reduction 1850. Several collieries refused to vote.

At Rowley, Staffordshire, a dispute has occurred in the nailmaking industry, some of the employers refusing to pay the recognised list of prices. The executive committee of the Nailworkers' Association have decided that the operatives shall be supported by levies made upon the surrounding districts.

The miners of Fife and Clackmannan, numbering upwards of six thousand, have voted, by an overwhelming majority, in favour of terminating the contracts with their employers, in order to compel the coalmasters to concede an advance of 15 per cent. The coalmasters have resolved to resist the action of the men to the utmost.

Last week an indignation meeting of the scavengers employed by the Corporation was held in Glasgow to protest against the recent reduction of wages accompanied with an increase of work. It was stated at the meeting that while 100 per cent. additional work had been imposed upon the men, their wages which previously ranged from 20s. to 30s. per week, had been reduced by 5s. to 10s., whilst the salaries of some of the officials ranging from £600 to £1200 had not been touched.

The Cleveland Steel-works at Eston, belonging to Messrs. Bolckow, Vaughan, & Co., Middlesbrough, where some two thousand men are employed, have been closed, the notices which the men had given to the effect that they would cease work unless they obtained an advance of 10 per cent. having expired last Saturday. It is not expected that the strike will continue more than a week or two, as the men are not organised.—*Later.* The strike has practically ended, the men having accepted the 2½ per cent. advance offered by the masters for the next seven weeks, and then submit the further claims of the men to arbitration.

CONFERENCE OF TRADES' DELEGATES.—At the adjourned conference of trades' societies' delegates in Glasgow on Saturday, a resolution was adopted declaring that a reduction of the working hours to eight per day would tend to the absorption of the surplus labour in the market. The meeting also expressed approval of the Eight Hours' Bill as applicable to miners. Another subject discussed was systematic overtime, which it was agreed should be abolished or so minimised as to distribute labour amongst the largest number of hands. A resolution of sympathy with the miners in their present struggle for an advance was adopted with unanimity.

MINERS' CONFERENCE IN GLASGOW.—A conference of miners' delegates was held in Glasgow on Saturday. The proceedings were private, but at the close it was announced that it had unanimously decided that the men should remain out until a future conference—the date of which is not fixed—unless their demand was meanwhile conceded. The recommendation of the conference was almost universally adopted in Lanarkshire and Ayrshire. At Irvine, however, about 250 men went to work at Merry and Cunningham's pit. The pickets were out, but the firm placed their men under the protection of the police.

NATIONAL LABOUR FEDERATION.—A meeting of the executive council of this body was held on Saturday night at the Carlisle Hotel, Westgate Road, Newcastle. Communications have been sent to the different trades' union councils respecting the legality of their members joining the federation. Several replies were read, which were favourable to the federation, and will no doubt remove a cause that has prevented many unionists joining and co-operating in organising the working classes. It was decided to hold the delegates' meeting on March 26, to which each branch will send one delegate. Arrangements were made for opening five more branches.

DUBLIN.—At a meeting of the Amalgamated Tailors in their Hall, Fishamble Street, with reference to the "sweating" system, the case of the *Southport Chronicle*, which has been mulcted in law costs of nearly £170 by a local tailor for denouncing the system, was taken into consideration. The spacious hall was filled to overflowing. Mr. M'Mahon stated that sweating was carried on in Dublin to an even worse extent than in the large towns of England; all the large firms in Dublin employed sweaters. That day he had been in a sweaters' den, where a woman lay in childbed and where three females and two boys were working. A resolution to assist in indemnifying the *Southport Chronicle*, and thanking its editors, was carried without a dissentient.

THE STRIKE IN THE WELSH TIN-PLATE TRADE.—A demonstration of strikers in the Monmouthshire tin-plate trade was held at Abercarne on Saturday. The strikers formed a procession at the top of the valley and marched down to Abercarne, where they were joined by other strikers. A meeting was held, at the close of which a collision occurred between a num-

ber of the strikers and those who are idle through the strike of the tin-house and mill men. Many persons were roughly handled, the neighbourhood being in a state of riot for some hours. A disturbance having been anticipated, a large number of police had been drafted into the place, and they were able to cope with it, and succeeded in maintaining order. Delegates representing the Glamorganshire and Carmarthenshire works attended the meeting, and stated that they were prepared to afford support to the extent of 14s. per man per week. It was decided to continue the strike resisting the ten per cent. reduction.—*Wednesday.* Disturbances of a similar character occurred yesterday, and the neighbourhood was in a state of riot for some hours.

The weaving trade is so intensely unprofitable that capital is rushing into it like a flood. Scarcely a daily paper can be taken up without seeing that in one district or another extensions are going on. Some firms are extending their sheds, others are building new ones; fresh companies are starting, either to manufacture themselves or to supply room and power to tenants. It looks as though we are to have a repetition of a dozen years ago. We shall have looms put down without limit until the goose is killed that lays the golden eggs. We shall then have lengthy articles about foreign competition, and the employers will be asking for reduced wages. If the operatives are wise they will take time by the forelock. With the demand for weavers now existing, many of them are too apt to assume that because they are comparatively comfortable it will always last, and there is no need to prepare for a rainy day by organising this strength. What is occurring now has occurred before, and we shall as surely have a repetition of 1878 and 1883 as that night follows day. Capitalists want teaching that they have no business to rush their money in a trade till the profits are gone, and then come upon the workpeople to pay for their folly. Now is the time to prepare the lesson, and we shall be pleased to see that at the right time it can be effectively taught.—*Cotton Factory Times.*

THE LOCK-OUT OF GLASS-BOTTLE MAKERS AT ST. HELENS—SWEDES BROUGHT OVER TO TAKE THEIR PLACE—DEMONSTRATION AGAINST FOREIGN LABOUR.

On Saturday afternoon a demonstration to protest against the introduction of foreign labour was held at St. Helens. During the week Messrs. Lyon Brothers, glass-bottle manufacturers, have brought 39 Swedes and Norwegians to supersede workmen whom they had discharged. Of these, sixteen have declined to work when they found that there was a dispute, some not coming to St. Helens and five not working when they did arrive. On Saturday morning the other twenty-three Swedes commenced to work. Messrs. Lyon have arranged some rooms in Corporation Street, about half a mile from the works, for their accommodation, and they are conveyed to and fro in a wagonette under a strong police escort. The popular feeling against Messrs. Lyon is very strong. On Saturday fully 6000 workmen joined in the procession, and about 10,000 persons were present at the meeting. Mr. Thomas Glover, secretary to the St. Helens Trades' Union Council, presided, and the meeting was addressed by Mr. Robert Hunter, president of the St. Helens Glass-Bottle Makers' Union; Mr. James Hunter, secretary; Mr. Robert Canning, a discharged foreman; Mr. George Hempinstall, president of the North of England Glass-Bottle Makers' Society; Mr. Edward Tankard, secretary of the Northern Society; Mr. Morgan, vice-president of the Liverpool Trades' Council; Mr. Schumann, Dublin Trades' Council; Mr. Charles Sweeting, Yorkshire Bottle-Makers' Society; and Mr. Graham, president of the Dublin Glass-Bottle Makers' Society. The following resolutions were carried unanimously: "That this meeting of the various trades of St. Helens and surrounding districts hereby expresses its greatest condemnation of Messrs. Lyon in introducing foreigners under false pretences, and thereby turning out their own workmen. (It was stated that the agent of Messrs. Lyon in Gothenburg had represented that there was no dispute in St. Helens.) "That this meeting use all its influence to support the bottle-makers during their dispute." A strong body of police had been drafted into the town and drawn up in position near the Swedish Barracks, but their services were not required. The Strike Committee of the Socialist League immediately on receipt of the news of the arrival of the Swedes, sent a delegate from the Swedish Section of the Socialists to assist the unionists by acting as interpreter between them and the Swedes.

A large open-air meeting was held at Lancaster Market Place, on Monday Feb. 7. J. L. Mahon (delegate from the Socialist League Strike Committee) explained the circumstances of the dispute between Messrs. Lyons of St. Helens and the International Union of Glass Bottle Makers. The following resolution was put and carried with cheers: "That this meeting protests against the mean action of Messrs. Lyons, the St. Helens glass bottle makers, in enticing foreign workmen to compete against their English brethren; that we send our hearty sympathy to the workers and wish them success in their struggle; and we hope the Swedish workmen will not allow themselves to be used by the capitalist as a means of stirring up rivalry between the workers of different nations."

AMERICA.

Italians of Norway, Mich., have formed an assembly of K. of L.

A French assembly has been organised in Iron Mountain.

In Des Moines, Ia., two sisters are professional paper hangers, hanging paper at the regular rates charged by men in the same line.

The striking car men in San Francisco have established a line of 'busses on Sutter Street to accommodate the people who formerly used the street cars.

The Federation of Trades Unions includes 34,000 cigarmakers, 22,000 bricklayers, 40,000 coal-miners, 20,000 printers, 27,000 iron-moulders, and 30,000 carpenters and joiners.

Ottumwa, Ia., Knights will start a co-operative packing and provision company, employing 1,000 to 1,500 men upon the eight-hour plan, March 1. Capital stock 50,000 dols., shares 10 dols. each.

The gain of the street-car employés in this and other cities, through the strikes of last year, has been absolute. It includes more pay, more leisure, and more men at work. The effect of their combination in New York and Brooklyn was to take an average of three hours and nineteen minutes of work per day from the men employed, and to increase their pay by at least 25 cents per day. That is to say, the street-car employés now work seventy-seven hours per week and earn 2 dols. per day, against a hundred hours and 1 dol. 75 c., as per scale of January last year. They gained nearly two working days of twelve hours each per week, and 1 dol. 75 c. in pay. The cost of these efforts, in wage-loss and expenses, all told, to the wage-earners, was less than 100,000 dols. Over 2,000,000 dols. were added to the wages of this class, and 2000 more men are now employed.—*John Swinton's Paper.*

REVOLUTIONARY RUMBLINGS.

FRANCE.

MARSEILLES.—The women weavers of the La Palud factory at Marseilles, having demanded an augmentation of wages without any result, have now put themselves on strike. With the present tariff it is impossible for the most skilful to earn more than 2 fr. 25 c. a-day.

DECAZEVILLE.—The members of the workmen's Syndicate of the miners of Aveyron at a general meeting held at Decazeville on the 30th of January, nominated Citizen Basly to represent them at the Congress of French miners, which is to be held at St. Etienne from the 7th to the 13th of February.

In spite of all protests and representations, Sieur Lachaise, porcelain manufacturer, will insist on dismissing an employé whom he has found to be a member of the Porcelain Makers' Syndicate and of the Socialist Committee, signifying his intention moreover of reducing the wages of the moulders. His workmen, however, called a meeting and unanimously agreed to leave the workshops if he persists in his unreasonable conduct.

PRISON REVOLTS.—We hear of disturbances in the Central Prison of Albertville (Savoie) and also that of Embrun (Htes. Alpes), the cause in both places being the complaint at the lowness of the labour-tariff in some of the workshops. "Order is now re-established," say the papers, which is a very comfortable assurance to all parties, especially to those who have been reduced to "order" by cajolery, promises, or the prison-cell.

REUILLY.—A correspondent to the *Cri* writes of the farce of an "inspector's visit" which has taken place at the tobacco-factory of Reuilly. It seems that the same inspector who had charge of the inquiry into the Roustan affair at Marseilles was sent thither, and his detailed report arrived at the conclusion that an increase of the women's wage was necessary. This increase accordingly took place, but, we are told, only for the space of a fortnight, after which the former tariff was resumed! The writer adds that in the last ten years the mean of wages has fallen from 4 fr. 50 c. to 2 fr. 95 c., and that a strike is apprehended.

VIERZON.—Féline, lately released from his long-protracted imprisonment, writes a letter of greeting to the *Cri*, announcing his return to the ranks of the "revoltés," and his intention of resuming his work for that journal as correspondent for the department. It is well for revolutionary propagandists, of whatever colour, that the governing bodies do not perceive with what stimulated ardour all those who are active in mind and sincere in their convictions, return from long weeks and months of incarceration to their former posts, or finding those filled up by their long absence, proceed to make for themselves new places! Otherwise would they (our governors) rather seek to ignore the movement, and let the force spend itself prematurely aboveground. But in France at any rate, *Repression v. Intimidation* are the watchwords of the adversary, and the ferment works in darkness.

BELGIUM.

Strikes are multiplying in Ghent just now, some of them being accompanied by a certain amount of disturbance. Persecutions of Socialists are many and vigorous, the bourgeoisie here being particularly vindictive against the movement.

The military repression of last March in the district of Charleroi has cost the country two million francs (£80,000). All that to arrive at the massacring of some dozens of starvelings and the imprisonment of some hundreds of desperate men. Far otherwise would it have been useful and humane to have sent the money's worth in bread and meat to the workers of Charleroi! But that would be noways pleasing to General Vandersmissen—a butcher of men—well and good!—*L'Avant Garde*.

GHEENT.—At a second representation of the *Petit Patriote* at the theatre here, several Socialists allowed themselves the pleasure of hissing the anti-Socialist sentiments of the play, whereupon they were "chucked" and roughly handled by the police, their clothes torn, and so forth. In 1885, on we know not what occasion, the burgomaster of Ghent declared at a sitting of the Council that in buying a ticket of admission to the theatre a man also bought the right to hiss the performers. Dear burgomaster, we should think he did! At the same time, theatre-goers being proverbially good-hearted and lenient, the prerogative is seldom exercised by the gods (except, of course, when a favourite "villain" comes on the stage, who would not be content without this demonstration of disgust at the "wickedness of vice"). But a Socialist who goes to witness an anti-Socialist play does so as a religious duty, and certainly buys with his ticket the right to express his distaste for sentiments inimical to his views. Ungrateful Ghent! A handful of working-men break the monotony of your after-dinner theatrical amusement and add a relish of excitement thereto, and you reward them by opprobrium and abuse!

GERMANY.

The Social Democrats have recently issued an electoral manifesto to the people, in which they explain the position of the Socialist members of the Reichstag, who protested against the augmentation of the army which the Government asked for. Militarism is a serious danger for the peace of nations, the manifesto says; the present organisation of military force which allows of aggressive warfare must be replaced by popular armies, more numerous and efficacious for defence but useless for attack, thereby making an end of fratricidal warfare between nations. The manifesto goes on to explain afresh the programme of the party; annual vote on the budget, substitution of collective production for capitalist production, suppression of indirect taxation, to be replaced by progressive tax upon income, equal rights for all, etc. According to the manifesto, the Social Democrats consider that the electoral struggle opens under circumstances very favourable for them; the last Session having done nothing for the labouring class, it is for these to choose between the Socialists and the enemies of Socialists, who are likewise the enemies of the People.

AUSTRIA.

PRAGUE, February 4.—The speech made by Herr von Pleuer in the Reichsrath in support of his proposition to create labour-chambers is remarkable in many respects. He referred to the importance of the project of law relating to the solution of the social question, although there was a time when the friends of this gentleman denied all existence of the social question. He spoke of the struggle between capital and labour, of the exploitation of labour by capital, of the necessity to found institutions by which the labourers

should be enabled to withstand the great capitalists. And notwithstanding all this he is an adherent of "economic liberalism" as deputy for the Commercial Chamber at Eger in Bohemia, and he made a difference between Socialists and labourers and spoke of the necessity of combatting the Socialist aims which threaten to root up the present society. The proposition was referred to a committee *ad hoc*. How long it will stay in the committee's hands not even the committee knows.

In the year 1883 there was submitted to the Reichsrath a project of law relating to insurance against disease and accidents, which is still, as we write, only a project of law. More quickly a project of law creating a military levy in mass (Landsturm) became legally binding. The preceding month the respective ministerial executing ordinances were issued. According to that law the territorial militia will be convoked when a war breaks out, in order to maintain order at home, and in case of necessity also against the enemy. The first levy of the territorial army consists of all men of from 19 to 38 years of age who are not soldiers, not blind, deaf, dumb, lame, nor hunchbacked, etc., etc.; the second body, of all men of from 38 to 42 years. According to the dates of the Insurance Society argues that we have in Austria, there are in the first levy 2,148,783, in the second class 518,988; altogether, 2,667,771 men; in Hungary, first levy 1,616,282, second levy 390,374 men; in Austria-Hungary, therefore, 4,674,427 men. That the territorial militia, consisting of men who have never worn a weapon, will avail anything to the Government when the regular army is beaten and dissolved, we may be allowed to doubt. If, after an unlucky battle, the armed people rise and shake off the yoke of absolutism and capitalism!—F.S.

BLANTYRE MINERS.—Feb. 9.—Serious miners' riots at Blantyre, shops sacked, military called out, 17 arrests. A report on the miners' agitation in Scotland will be printed in next week's *Commonweal*.

The trial at Posen of the Polish Socialists has just finished. The long-deferred sentence condemns one man to two years' imprisonment and a second to six months. The rest are acquitted.

SOCIALIST ARRESTS IN GERMANY.—BERLIN, Feb. 7.—A number of Socialist arrests, amounting, it is stated, to twenty-four, were made in Magdeburg and its environs yesterday. The prisoners are charged with being members of an illegal society.

The unemployed of Madrid have been parading the streets demanding "work" of their exploiters; the authorities busy themselves about preparing a sop for Cerberus in the shape of public works. Fancy making work for the people, when so much work remains undone in all directions? The impotency and helplessness of the answer is about paralleled by that of the cry.

PEACE OR WAR?—A crowded meeting of Socialists and sympathisers was held in Cleveland Hall on Tuesday, to protest against the stupid and fratricidal war about to be inaugurated by the bourgeois governments of Europe in order at once to extend their foreign markets and smother the revolutionary propaganda. Wm. Morris took the chair, and speeches were made in several languages by men of the different peoples. A strong resolution was unanimously carried.

"**RIOT MONDAY.**"—On Tuesday evening a meeting was held on Clerkenwell Green, in spite of its having been "proclaimed" by Charles Warren, to commemorate the terrific fright Bourgeoisdom received a year ago. The police succeeded in thoroughly exasperating the people, so much so that some window-smashing and general "rioting" signalled the homeward way of part of the crowd. Some arrests were made. May we suggest Unjust Grantham as the fit and proper person to try the prisoners?

THE SOCIALIST LEAGUE.

OFFICES: 13 FARRINGDON ROAD, E.C.

NOTICE.—All business matters relating to the Socialist League to be directed to the Secretary, H. A. Barker, 13 Farringdon Road, London, E.C.

Bazaar and Concert postponement.—Circumstances which have arisen since the committee of management announced the date of the Bazaar compel them to postpone the same from *February 5 to Saturday March 5*.

Paris Commune.

An International Celebration of the Paris Commune will be held at SOUTH PLACE CHAPEL on THURSDAY MARCH 17. All Revolutionists are invited to take part. Charles, Lane, and Cantwell have been appointed a committee to make arrangements.

A Provincial Propagandist Tour.

Comrade Mahon's engagements in the provinces are: Feb. 12 and 13, Notting ham; 14, Sheffield; 15, Clay Cross (miners); 17 to 25, Leeds, Bradford, Bingley, Shipley, etc.; 27, 28, and March 1, Hull; 2, Newcastle. Mahon will be glad to hear from any persons willing to arrange meetings at York, Middlesbro', Shields, or Yarmouth.

Branch (Capitation) Subscriptions.

The Treasurer would be glad if the Branches made every effort during the year to pay up their subscriptions at the end of each month, so that the advertisement of these subscriptions would show the united energy of the League.

Branch Subscriptions Paid.

Birmingham, Hackney, Hull, Leeds, North London, to August 31. Manchester, Merton, Norwich, to October 31. Bradford, to November 30. Croydon, Hammersmith, Lancaster, Leicester, Oxford, South London, to December 31, 1886. Bloomsbury, Clerkenwell, to January 31. Hoxton (Labour Emancipation League), to March 31, 1887.

STRIKE COMMITTEE.

T., 1s.; H. C., 1s.; V. D., 1s.; W. M., 1s.; J. L., 6d.; T. B., 6d.; Arthur Thomas, 1s. T. BINNING, Treasurer.

"COMMONWEAL" PRINTING FUND.

H. A. B. (two weeks), 1s.; E. B. B. (weekly), 1s.; T. B. (weekly), 6d.; W. B. (weekly), 6d.; Hammersmith Branch (weekly), 10s.; Bloomsbury Branch (weekly), 5s. PH. W., Treasurer, Feb. 8.

THE NORWICH PRISONERS' AID FUND.

(It is suggested by the Committee that each Branch organised a Concert for the purpose of raising funds.)

Acknowledged last week, £6, 13s.; A. E., 5s.; W. R., 5s.; Webb, 1s.; Arthur, 1s.; Miller, 5s.; O'Fallon, 3s.; Morris, £1; collected in Hyde Park, 4s. 5d.; Regent's Park, 4s. 6d.; Hamilton Branch, 3s.; Leeds Branch (weekly), 2s.; collected by G. S. Farnham, 5s. Total, £9, 11s. 11d.—J. LANE, Treasurer.

BRANCH REPORTS.

CLERKENWELL.—On Wednesday, Feb. 2, H. H. Sparling lectured on "Commercial Cannibalism;" good discussion followed. On Sunday, Feb. 6th, Dr. W. M. von Swartwout gave us a very interesting lecture. The ordinary monthly meeting of members was held as announced, at which important Branch business was transacted. The secretary gave out, among other good news, that after settling liabilities up to date, the treasurer had a balance in hand. Members are reminded that a monthly free concert will take place first Sunday in each month, and not to forget to bring their friends. The open-air propaganda in Clerkenwell will soon be started, and we hope members will rally round.—W. B. and T. E. W., secs.

CROYDON.—On Sunday last, Graham Wallas gave an exceedingly interesting lecture on "Education," in which he keenly criticised our present system of instruction; which he pointed out was merely preparatory to really useful education, and was very soon lost after leaving school. His statement, however, that schooling should last from 5 years up to 18 years of age to be really useful, rather startled some of the audience, and provoked a discussion. The Radical Association have passed a resolution expressing sympathy with Mowbray and Henderson, and condemning Grantham. At the West Croydon Liberal and Radical Club the Radical Association also proposed same resolution after a lecture on Lord Palmerston, but the chairman ruled it "out of order." Much sympathy is expressed, however, and we hope to carry similar resolutions in most of the local Liberal and Radical Clubs. Collecting cards now out.—A. T., ast. sec.

HACKNEY.—On Sunday morning, we held our first open-air meeting at the "Salmon and Ball." Graham and Davis addressed a good audience; no opposition. In the evening, W. C. Wade lectured on "England in the 15th Century, and Now." An interesting discussion followed.—H. MATTHEWS, sec.

HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM.—With the return of milder weather the attendances at our outdoor meetings, which we have persevered in holding throughout the winter, have much improved. On Sunday, Feb. 6th, we held successful meetings at Beadon Road and at Walham Green. At the latter place in the absence of expected speaker, Hunter Watts, of the S.D.F., who chanced to be in the neighbourhood, kindly delivered an address on our principles, taking for his text Ruskin's statement that there are only three ways of getting a living, viz., by working, begging, or stealing. Tochatti made an appeal for comrade Mowbray's family, and 6s. 2d. was collected. Our recent lectures have been by T. A. Manson on "Burns," Mrs. E. Bland on "Ancient Rome and Modern Babylon," on which occasion the Rev. C. L. Manson took the chair, and on the 6th inst. by H. H. Sparling, who lectured on the "Evolution of Cannibalism."—W.

MITCHAM.—We held an outdoor meeting on Sunday morning on Mitcham Fair Green. Comrade Kitz and other Merton comrades assisted. As usual we were well protected by police. Kitz read a letter received from the Croydon Board of Guardians, offering to receive a deputation of three unemployed workmen. The offer was accepted, and several men gave in their names to form deputation. In the evening in the club-room of the Branch, comrade Barker lectured to a large audience, the subject being "Socialist Morality." The speaker was listened to with rapt attention and sympathy. We sang Morris's chant, "No Master," after the lecture. We are working for the benefit of the wife and family of comrade Mowbray as well as can be expected, considering that our members have had rather a rough time of it lately; we intend to keep the fund open for three weeks, and shall then send the amount to the committee appointed to receive the same.—S. G., sec.

BRADFORD.—On Sunday, Feb. 6, comrade Maguire lectured to a crowded house at the "Exchange," City Road, on "Some Objections to Socialism." After a brief but lucid statement of our aims he reviewed most of the common objections urged by opponents, dealing first with the "Dirty Work" bogey, to the manifest satisfaction of those present. Referring to the "No Incentive" objection, he expressed surprise that such a thinker as Herbert Spencer should put forth such a weak argument, and showed the utter fallacy of the idea, and strongly opposed the inherent baseness of the prevalent notion that the incentive to money-getting was the motor-power of the world's progress. He pointed out that the really able and best men, scientists, thinkers, poets, and painters, did not as a rule seek to gain wealth, but did their work for the love of it and of humanity, and when they did happen to get too much into the pay of the counting-house their "genius" and the excellence of their work too often began to show signs of grievous deterioration. The millionaire, on the contrary, was generally an unscrupulous monster who accumulated his fortune by abusing the hard necessities and inventions of his fellows. The only notion of progress such an one had was the progress of his own banking account, to increase which he would work his fellow creatures—men, women, and children—to death and the devil. "Money incentive" inevitably developed monstrosity, and was really the greatest block to real progress. Against this he put the grand ideal of Socialism, harmonious association in all things, which would develop true manhood and womanhood, and secure comfort, leisure, culture, and happiness for all. Opposition speeches were made by Mr. Garside, an ancient Tory, and Mr. Wilson, who called himself a "go-between." The lecturer was ably supported by comrades Bland and Minty. A remarkable speech was also made by Mr. Robinson, a Conservative, who

roundly condemned the twin curses, competition and capitalism, and acknowledged that Socialists, in contrast to Radicals and Tories, knew very clearly what they were talking about. Their ideal was a noble one, vastly superior to the dubious aims of rival political parties. Mr. Robinson is clearly not far from salvation. Maguire wound up with an eloquent and passionate appeal which quite "carried" the audience.

EDINBURGH.—On Monday, Jan. 31, in large Free Tron Hall, James Campbell lectured on "Social Utopias." In a lecture instinct with the finest feeling and the richest imagination, he passed in review various ideals cherished in the past. Though the lecture was one which it might have been thought tended more to give enjoyment than to provoke discussion, there was nevertheless an animated discussion at its close, in which our friend Mavor, from Glasgow, took part.—J. G.

GLASGOW.—On Sunday, at 1.30 p.m., Glasier addressed an audience of from 200 to 300 on Jail's Square. Afterwards a Socialist friend from England spoke for some time. Some opposition was replied to by Glasier with the manifest approval of the audience. At 5.30 Glasier addressed another large and sympathetic meeting. In the evening in our hall, David McLardy lectured on "The Claims of Labour."

HULL.—On Thursday, 3rd inst., Teesdale spoke at the Radical Club on "Socialism and Social Reform," and met with considerable opposition. On Sunday, Teesdale spoke at the club-room on the necessity of propagandists studying history and political economy, and suggested the formation of "groups" for this purpose. Devlin spoke on the aims of Socialism, which was followed by a brisk discussion, two Radicals opposing.—T.

LEEDS.—On Sunday, 11 a.m., we held an open-air meeting in Vicar's Croft, and Sollet and Maguire addressed an attentive audience of about 400 on "Passing Events." *Commonweal* sold well. In the evening, Maguire lectured on Socialism at the Exchange Discussion Club, City Road, Bradford.—F. CORKWELL, sec.

NORWICH.—We held four meetings on Sunday all well attended, which were addressed by Donald. We collected 15s. for the Prisoners' Aid Fund, and must call upon our well-wishers in Norwich and district to be a little more liberal. If we don't get larger collections it will be a couple of years before our debts are cleared. The meeting in the Market Place should have given at least £3. The propaganda is carried on vigorously with results that have astonished ourselves.—D.

LECTURE DIARY.

Bloomsbury.—Communist Club, 49 Tottenham Street. Friday Feb. 11, at 8.30. Hubert Bland will lecture on "Nihilism."—Members are requested to show more interest in the Branch, and attend the lectures.

Clerkenwell.—Hall of the Socialist League, 13 Farringdon Road, E.C. Sunday February 13, at 8.30. H. Charles, "Evolution and Revolution." Wednesday 16, at 8.30. William Morris, "Medieval England."

Croydon.—Royal County House, West Croydon Station Yard. Sunday February 13. H. H. Sparling, "The Evolution of Cannibalism."—Committee Meeting every Friday at 8 p.m. sharp, at Parker Road.

Hackney.—23 Audrey Street, Goldsmith Row. Club Room open every evening from 8 till 11. Business meeting every Tuesday at 8.30, members earnestly urged to attend. The Discussion Class will commence on Feb. 10; H. Davis will open.—Sunday 13, at 8.30. H. A. Barker, "Material and Spiritual Consolation."

Hammersmith.—Kelmescott House, Upper Mall, W. Sunday Feb. 13, at 8. William Morris, "Medieval England."

Hoxton (L. E. L.).—Exchange Coffee House, Pitfield Street, opposite Hoxton Church, N. Sunday Feb. 13, 8 p.m. Lecture.

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.

Country Branches.

Bingley.—Coffee Tavern. Every Monday at 7.30 p.m.

Birmingham.—Carr's Lane Coffee House. Every Monday evening, at 8.

Bradford.—Scott's Temperance Hotel, East Parade, Leeds Road Wednesdays, at 8.

Edinburgh (Scottish Section).—4 Park Street. Meets every Thursday at 8 p.m. Reading Room and Library open every Wednesday evening, 8 till 10.—Free Tron Hall, Monday February 14, at 8 o'clock. James Mavor, Sec. Socialist League, Glasgow, on "Wages and Prices." Admission, 3d.—Treasurer will receive Subscriptions for Prisoners' Aid Fund.

Glasgow.—Reading-room of the Branch, 84 John St., open from 10 a.m. till 10 p.m. daily.—On Sunday, open-air meetings on Jail's Square at 1 and 5 o'clock; members requested to turn up to sell literature. In the evening, at 6.30, in Hall, No. 2 Carlton Place, Clyde Side, Arch. M'Laren, M.A., will lecture on "Anarchism."—On Tuesday evening at 8 o'clock, in 84 John Street, Monthly Meeting of Members.

Hamilton.—Branch meets every Thursday at 7.30 in Paton's Hall, Chapel Street. On Thursday first, John Adams on "The Commune of Paris."

Hull.—11 Princess Street, Sykes Street. Club Room open every evening. Lectures every Thursday and Sunday at 7 p.m. Feb. 13. Comrade Shekell will lecture on "Equality."

Lancaster.—Market Hall Coffee Tavern Lecture Room. Friday evenings at 8.

Leicester.—Silver Street. Wednesdays at 8 p.m.

Manchester.—145 Grey Mare Lane, Bradford, Manchester. Club and Reading Room open every evening 6 to 10 p.m. Lecture and discussion every Wednesday at 8 p.m.

Norwich.—No. 6 St. Benedict St. Lecture and discussion every Sunday and Monday at 8 p.m. Reading-room open every day from 8.30 a.m. to 10 p.m.

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

Open-air Propaganda—Sunday 13.

11.30...Hackney—"Salmon and Ball".....Graham, Davis
11.30...Hammersmith—Beadon Rd.The Branch
11.30...Hoxton Church, Pitfield Street...Wade, Pope
11.30...Regent's Park.....Nicoll
11.30...St. Pancras Arches.....The Branch
11.30...Walham Green—Station.....Arnold
3.30...Hvde Park (near Marble Arch).....Mainwaring

PROVINCES.—SUNDAY.

Norwich.—St. Mary's Plain, 11; Market Place, 3.
Leeds.—Hunslet Moor, 11 a.m.; Vicar's Croft, 7 p.m.

CLEVELAND HALL, 54 Cleveland Street (near Portland Road Station).—Sundays at 11.30 a.m. Feb. 13. Victor Dave, "The Social Question and the various Religious Creeds."

THE DECORATOR'S CLUB, 37 Howland St., Tottenham Court Road, W.—Thursday Feb. 17, at 8.30. Thos. E. Wardle, "The Fallacies of Society." Music.

SWABY'S DISCUSSION ROOM, 103 Mile-end Road.—Sunday Feb. 13, at 8 p.m. "Did Christ teach Socialism?" Opener, John Dove.

Free Lectures on Socialism, in reply to recent Criticism, will be held in Farringdon Hall, 13 Farringdon Road, on Sunday mornings in February.—Sunday February 13, at 11.15 a.m. George Bernard Shaw, "The Dangers and Fallacies of Individualism."

Debate on Socialism.—A Debate is taking place at the Hall of Science, 142 Old Street, City Road, E.C., on February 2, 9, 16, and 23, at 8 p.m., between Mrs. Annie Besant and Mr. G. W. Foote, on the question, "Is Socialism sound?"

The friends of our late comrade, Hermann Dussmann, are organising a Social Entertainment for the purpose of assisting his widow, she being now very hard pressed and in somewhat straitened circumstances. Tickets may be obtained from H. S. Hopkins, 7 St. George's Street, Commercial Rd., Peckam, S.E.

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