

# THE COMMONWEAL

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WEEKLY; ONE PENNY.

## NOTES ON NEWS.

Mr. Ritchie's Local Government Bill is accepted everywhere as a progressive measure, and surprise is often expressed that such a measure should come from a Tory government. It is hardly worth while for us to go into its details, especially since it is more than possible that, whatever Mr. Ritchie's intentions may be, the Government generally does not intend that it shall pass intact. Meanwhile the putting forward by the Tories of a measure which would have been thought bold by the Liberals, points to that confusion of parties amongst our governing classes which is the sure forerunner of the emergence of the great popular party—Socialism, as the only real opposition to the sham Toryism and sham Liberalism that are now really but one party, the Obstructionists.

It must also be said that since undoubtedly this Bill is intended as a dishing measure and a bid for the popular vote at the next election, this betokens that the feeling for decentralisation, which has made the present form of agitation for Home Rule possible, is on the increase. It was understood by the Tories to be a certain bait, which it would not have been if the feeling in favour of decentralisation were not strong. Doubtless they also think it a *safe* measure; let us hope that it will turn out not to be quite so safe, and that it will be used for other purposes than electioneering.

Great news! An amnesty proclaimed in Berlin as the first-fruits of the new Kaiser's accession. "It chiefly applies to political offences," says the press; "but is not extended to persons sentenced under the Socialist Laws, nor to those imprisoned for high treason." To whom is it extended then in the name of patience? and how many first-class carriages would the non-Socialist political offenders fill? The Socialists, who are no doubt not at all surprised at this act of mercy, must feel themselves much honoured by the exception. Well, well! so ends any hope that may have been founded on the Liberal Kaiser—poor devil!

The consistent supporter of coercion in England, the *Daily News*, in reviewing the prospects for the hatching of that bad egg, the Liberal Party, says that "when Parliament met on the 9th February the Liberal cause had been seriously compromised by the follies of Trafalgar Square." This is an Easter Monday paragraph, and no doubt in such holiday times the production of a paper has to depend on at least its *second-rate* writers, and I think we may fairly suppose that the writer in question has as good a right to give us his views about folly as a blind man has about blindness, or a lame man about lameness.

Yet one must agree with the words of our coercionist booby, if not with his meaning. Balaam's ass has spoken, and spoken truth too; the Liberal cause has been seriously compromised by the follies of Trafalgar Square. Such a folly as that committed by Mr. Gladstone and his followers has rarely been met with, when they fell into the Tory trap by not resisting coercion in England while they were going about bawling over the horrors of coercion in Ireland. Trafalgar Square has been the touch-stone of their genuineness, and has found them out, and they now stand proclaimed as mere politicians and humbugs, who have taken up the Irish question because Mr. Parnell forced their hand by making his party vote against them in 1885. They will find out their mistake at the next election and bitterly regret "The Follies of Trafalgar Square," as given for the first time by the G. O. M. and his world-renowned company. W. M.

## THE SUPREMACY OF THE FINANCIAL ARISTOCRACY.

THE lords of usury rule supreme throughout the world. They rule supreme in the councils of the nations, and hold in bondage the wealth-producing millions. They direct and control the press of the world, and the pulpit is everywhere their humble servant. Schomburg tells us that in the king are centred all the riches, and power, and wisdom of the nation, and we are assured that the gods of finance are the worlds benefactors, without whose beneficent presence the toiling millions would perish.

We have seen some little of the doings of the financial aristocracy in connection with the so-called English national debt, and the claim they have on the labour of the English workers. But their power is becoming equally great in all the States of Europe; whatever the form of government, the usurer is there. He is a kind of omnipresent vampire—he is here, he is there, he is everywhere—a ubiquitous monster living on the vitals of the people.

If we turn to France we find the public debt increased from £221,000,000 in 1852 to £911,000,000 in 1882, with an annual charge of over £39,000,000. This was the outcome of the Imperialism of Napoleon and the Franco-German war. What a rich field here for the gods of finance! We must remember, too, that France is far less rich than England, the annual income being nearly £10 per head less in France than in England. If we turn to Germany, a still poorer country, its public debt rose from £82,000,000 in 1852 to £271,000,000 in 1882, the annual income of Germany being only about half what it is in England per head of her population, viz., £18 7s. 0d. per head to £35 2s. 6d. in the United Kingdom. If we turn to Austria-Hungary, the case is even worse. In the thirty years ending 1882, her debt rose from £118,000,000 to £458,000,000, with an annual charge of over £20,000,000. And in Austria-Hungary the national income is more than £2 per head less than in Germany. If we go to Italy the case is worse still. There, with a national income of only £12 per head per annum, her debt has gone up from £68,000,000 in 1852 to £353,000,000 in 1882. But if we go to the icy regions of St. Petersburg, the case is even worse. There we find the debt rose from £95,000,000 in 1852 to £553,000,000 in 1882; and the national annual income of Russia is only equal to £9 9s. per head of the population. And the debts of all these States are increasing from year to year, and the taxation of the several States increases in the same proportion.

We have heard a great deal of late of the loss the world has sustained by the death of the old Imperial hypocrite of Germany. We have been told of the glories of his reign, and its immense benefits to the whole of Europe. But from the date of his accession to the throne of Prussia to 1887, the revenues of the European States had been raised from £390,000,000 to £773,000,000, while the public debts of these States had increased from £2,626,000,000 to £4,862,000,000. The result of the warlike policy he at once inaugurated and the imperial spirit of jingoism he and his man of blood and iron created, is that Europe to-day is one vast military camp, the peace establishments having over four millions of men under arms, and in case of a general war nearly seventeen millions of men would be placed under arms. What a commentary on the glorious reign of the late "peace-loving" Emperor!

But we have to look at the gods of finance in other directions as well as in connection with the public debts of the European States. If we go to the United States of America the same system prevails. There the Government borrowed one thousand three hundred million dollars. Up to 1880 it paid in interest two thousand seven hundred and eighty million dollars, in principal one thousand two hundred millions, and then owed one thousand eight hundred millions. In the large sums she borrowed from European capitalists she not only gave them credit for £100 for every £40 received, but agreed to pay them in a gold currency. Since 1880 more than 800,000,000 dollars more have been paid as principal and interest. It is true the Government has reduced the debt from 2,844,000,000 dollars to about a third, but the enormous sums paid and that will be paid before the whole debt is cleared off is a disgrace alike to the Government and people where manhood suffrage exists.

Let us see these gold kings in the capacity of bankers, and the powers they possess to plunder the people.

The Bank of England so called, has the power to issue £16,200,000 in notes without an ounce of gold as security. The shareholders are

guaranteed not less than 10 per cent. per annum, but as much more as they can get. In January, 1876, at a meeting of the Statistical Society, London, at which almost all the leading bankers were present, Mr. R. Baxter read a paper on the effects of the rate of interest, in which he stated that by raising the rate one per cent., and maintaining that increased rate for twelve months, it increased the profits of the bankers eight millions sterling. Now, here is a grand field for plunder. But it has been shown over and over again that while the bankers would thus increase their profits to the extent of eight millions a-year, they would cripple the trade of the country to the extent of fifty millions a-year. The Government also plays into the hands of the Bank of England every year. It borrows from the Bank perhaps two or three millions in the year, for which it gives as security exchequer bonds. The bank lends these out at interest, but the notes it gives the Government do not bear interest. The security for the Government bonds is the revenue of the whole country, while the security for the notes of the bank is only the share capital of the company. Again, if at any time the Bank cannot meet its notes, the Government steps in and authorises the Bank to suspend cash payments, thus protecting the bank against its creditors. This has happened many times.

During the Civil War in America the banks lent the Government 197,780,000 dollars, for which they received 410,000,000 dollars in Government bonds. The notes of the banks cost them nothing but the paper and printing, while the government bonds bore 6 per cent. interest, amounting to 24,600,000 dollars per annum. The banks also got the privilege of charging 7 per cent. on their own issues, amounting to 350,000,000 dollars, bringing them another 31,500,000 dollars. It also secured them a profit of 4½ per cent. on 600,000,000 dollars as deposits, or 27,000,000 more. The banks thus got 83,100,000 dollars per annum because they lent the government 197,780,000 in notes, which, at 6 per cent., would have only brought them 11,866,800 dollars, being additional profit to the amount of 71,233,200 annually. Here was plunder with a vengeance; and the same thing goes on in all the States of the European Continent, nay, throughout the civilised world.

The power of the lords of finance is far greater now than it was in 1848. Yet, even at that time, such was the power of the financial aristocracy that they killed the revolution of France, which in turn destroyed the hopes of all the revolutionary parties on the Continent. Nor will any revolutionary movement ever succeed in any country, whether in Europe or America, that does not at once and for ever destroy the supremacy of gold with the present private banking system, on which the power and very existence of the present capitalistic system depend.

How, it may be asked, does the financial aristocracy thus become master of the situation, master of both governments and peoples. By compelling them to adopt more or less a gold standard, in which the interest shall be paid, if need be. England had to do so in 1823, which produced the terrible panic of 1824-25, and which, by the contraction of the currency, virtually doubled the debts of the country. Almost all the European States have had to do so, and all of them at immense sacrifices. America had to do so in 1873; in four years wages were reduced nearly 40 per cent., and in 1878-79 over two millions of workers were out of work as the natural and inevitable result of the contraction of the currency.

Look at the position to-day of the leading countries. France is compelled to keep a stock of gold at from £190,000,000 to £200,000,000. The United Kingdom about £120,000,000 to £130,000,000; Germany about £70,000,000; while Russia with £22,000,000, Austria with £10,000,000, and Italy with £15,000,000, are struggling on in the best way they can to increase their stock of gold to give confidence to the bondholders. In 1873 America had but £29,000,000 in gold, but she had to bring it up to over £100,000,000 at the pleasure of her creditors. In all the States of Europe and America the gold-mongers rule supreme.

The conditions of society to-day everywhere depend on the plunder of the people; and from the terrible but inevitable effects of that plunder, the Revolution alone can free the workers.

J. SKETCHLEY.

The 18th March has been celebrated in all the centres of the Socialist and labour parties of Italy by meetings and speech-makings, besides the lighter and less weighty pleasures of "social evenings," "teas" and "banquets." At Rome on the morning of the 18th, numerous scraps and ribbons red and black were found attached to the telegraph posts and wires.

LONDON PAUPERS.—The weekly return of metropolitan pauperism shows that the total number of paupers relieved in the third week of last month was 110,698, of whom 60,733 were indoor and 49,965 outdoor paupers. The total number relieved shows an increase of 6,984 over the corresponding week of last year, 7,165 over 1886, and 6,013 over 1885. The total number of vagrants relieved on the last day of the week was 1,323, of whom 1,162 were men, 148 women, and 13 children under sixteen.

WHERE PROFITS GO.—"Who is making the money?" That is what the people are asking who have to foot the bills. "How much is coal worth?" is asked of the superintendent of the mines. "Two dollars and a quarter a ton." "How much is coal worth?" is a question put to the great mining and transportation companies at their palatial office in New York city. "Five dollars a ton." "How much is coal worth?" rings in the ears of the retail dealer along the river front. "Seven dollars and a half a ton." "How much is coal worth?" asks the housewife of a grocer. "Thirty cents a bushel, ma'am." That is nine dollars a ton. "How much is coal worth?" comes from a widow to the peddler in the street. "Twelve cents a scuttle, or eight cents a pail ma'am." That is twelve dollars a ton.—*Beaumont Free Speech.*

## SOCIALISM MILITANT IN SCOTLAND.

SINCE a year may make a good deal of difference in the position of a party, even when it is being carried on by quiet propaganda, I give a brief account of my lecturing tour in Scotland and my impressions of the position of Socialism there. On the 21st March I lectured at Kilmarnock, a not very important town on the edge of the mining district. The chief industry in the town itself is that of the railway works—a tolerably good indication, by the way, of labour being cheap in the neighbourhood; accordingly I was informed that the iron-miners in the neighbourhood are earning about nine shillings a-week working four days a-week, and that the coal-miners in the neighbourhood are not much better off. I spoke in the church of Mr. Forrest, my inviter. The audience was fair as to numbers; they were not demonstrative, and it was found impossible to get them to ask any questions; they were, however, very attentive, and showed their interest in the subject by buying over 10s. worth of literature. A large proportion of the audience seemed to me to be of the middle-classes. A branch of the Scottish Land and Labour League has just been formed here, but I was told that the town was hard to move.

The following Friday produced a failure. Our Edinburgh comrades had taken a large hall for my lecture in Leith (not being able to get a smaller one), but only five persons turned up besides the branch, who showed up well; so the money was returned and we gave it up. However, seeing plenty of people hanging about in the street as we went homeward rather sadly, we started an open-air meeting, and got together upwards of 200 persons, who listened for an hour and a half to me and some of the members of the branch, though the snow presently began to come down fast.

The next day I went to West Calder, a mining village some half-hour's railway ride from Edinburgh. We did not expect much of a meeting on a Saturday evening in such a place, especially as a very moderate amount of advertising had been used; but some of our Edinburgh comrades got down there, and did their best to get an audience by beginning in the open air; the bell-man—or rather, the bell-boy—was sent round also, and we got together some sixty persons, all workmen, into the room, which was thought very good considering the circumstances. They made an excellent audience as to attention and spirit. In the ensuing discussion, one person put forward as an objection a point which I see is made the most of by a well-known hand in *To-day*—to wit, that Socialism will produce wealth so abundantly and easily that we should not find work enough to do, and should deteriorate in consequence. The audience, mostly miners, obviously thought that this was an objection which might be passed over for the present, and were much tickled by the objector's persistency in his threats of a life of ease.

The Edinburgh Whig rag, the *Scotsman*, by the way, paid me the compliment of publishing a paragraph on this meeting, which implied that I could not get an audience and came away with nothing done; and when I wrote to contradict its statement, favoured its readers with an explanation which was a model of the suppression of truth and suggestion of untruth. It is a matter of course that this journal goes out of its way to treat our friends unfairly.

On Sunday I went to Glasgow; and here I had every reason to damn "the nature of things" as heartily as Porson did when he hit his head against the doorpost; for it came on to snow at about one o'clock and snowed till the time of meeting harder than I ever saw it snow, so that by 7.30 Glasgow streets were more than ankle-deep in half-frozen slush, and I made up my mind to an audience of fifty in a big hall: however it was not as bad as that, for it mustered over 500, who passed *nem. con.* a resolution in favour of Socialism. Owing to the weather, our comrades could not attempt the preliminary open-air meetings which they had intended to do; so I passed the day with them in their rooms in John Street, very much to my own pleasure, as without flattery they were, as I have always found them, hearty good fellows and thorough Socialists. All political parties in Glasgow have been depressed of late, they told me, and the Socialists have partly shared in this depression, though not as much as other bodies; but the knowledge of the movement and sympathy with it have grown very much, and our comrades are in good heart about it. The first novelty of the subject has worn off, and those who attend the meetings now are those who look upon the matter seriously. This is the view taken by our comrades wherever I went, and from all I could see I thought it the accurate one.

Perhaps the next day's meeting (Monday) at Edinburgh tended to show this. It was a miserable night again, and we did not expect an audience of dilettanti—and did not get it. It was about as numerous as I got last year under better circumstances, but differed from that in having scarcely any middle-class persons in it. As to quality, it was one of the very best audiences I ever spoke to, and missed no point in the lecture. In fact in Edinburgh at least I seem to have exhausted the sympathies (!) of those who came at first to amuse themselves over the eccentricities of a literary man, and only those are left who really want to take counsel about the one question worth considering—how to free our minds and bodies from capitalistic tyranny. We had the usual treat afforded us by one Mr. Job Bone, who attends and opposes all meetings, and who used to be thought a nuisance, but is now accepted as a convenient shoeing-horn to a discussion, and whose malicious folly is useful in drawing out the lecturer to explain matters that might otherwise remain unnoticed.

The next day I went to Dundee, where I had much the same kind of audience, except that there were more middle-class persons amongst

it, who made themselves useful by asking questions easily answered, but (I hope) in a way not satisfactory to them, though very much so to the working-men present. One of the questioners was the sub-editor of the Radical paper, and I answered an unfair question of his with some warmth, so I was not surprised at getting a very curt report next morning; whereas the Tory journal reported us fairly and well. The audience was very hearty and appreciative. There is a branch here of the Scottish Land and Labour League, manned by energetic workers, whose work, however, is difficult, because ordinary party politics run high in Dundee, and the Radicals there have not got further than the Gladstoneite programme, if it can be called a programme.

From Dundee I went to Aberdeen, where I found another branch of the S. L. L. L., including some energetic and intelligent men, a good deal kept down, as might be expected, by the ordinary Radicalism of the place, and some of whom, I think I may say consequently, are rather eager to try parliamentary agitation. Another stormy and wretched evening made me expect a thin audience; but the hall, which was a small one, was filled. The audience was mostly middle-class here, and rather heavy to lift, though attentive and not disposed to carp. The press reported the meeting carefully and well next morning.

If I could have, I would have visited Carnoustie, a mere village between Aberdeen and Dundee, but which has a good branch; but time was getting on, and I had promised to assist at a social gathering of our Edinburgh comrades on Thursday evening. I had a pleasant and interesting evening with them; and so finished what I came to do.

On the whole, in spite of some poor audiences (though the weather largely accounts for that), I was very favourably impressed by the outlook for Socialism in Scotland. There can be no doubt that much progress has been made since last year, in the teeth of great difficulties. As aforesaid, the novelty has worn off; respectability is beginning to see what Socialism really means, and doesn't like the look of it at all; the press is deadly hostile, and not ashamed of any meanness in its treatment of the movement; those who are dependent on "employers" need expect no mercy from them if they are spotted as Socialists; the traditional puritanism of the country throws additional obstacles in the way of propaganda,—and with all this the movement is gaining ground steadily, and has an appearance of solidity about it which is most encouraging. I saw most of our Edinburgh comrades, and they seem to me to have entered on a new stage of the movement, and to promise to be as staunch as may be. The progress they have made since last year is remarkable.

WILLIAM MORRIS.

THE CAPITALIST'S CREED.

(With Apologies to the Early Fathers.)

I believe in Capital, the power Omnipotent, Creator of labour and brains.

And in Landlordism, his only-begotten son, our right-hand supporter, who was conceived in Slavery and born of Rapine. Suffered through the opposition of the landless masses, who were crucified, and imprisoned. Descended to bloodshed, cant, and corruption. Weathered the attacks of Socialists and Land Nationalists; and, assisted by "law and order" arose triumphantly from the conflict. Ascended into the Nirvana of wealth and luxury, and sitteth at the right hand of Capitalism. From whence we shall come with bludgeons, bayonets, gating guns, and fossilised falsehoods, to judge the claims of the proletariat.

I believe in the power of Mammon, the holy congregation of Usurers and Jay Gouldites, the communion of Monopolists, the forgiveness of wholesale murder and exploitation, the resurrection of the rich, and damnation everlasting to Socialists, Radicals, Democrats, and all who oppose our beneficent rule. Amen.

W. H. McNAMARA, in the Sydney Radical.

LITERARY NOTES.

Articles of interest to Socialists in April reviews:—*Westminster*: "Local and Imperial Taxes: Who Pays Them?" *Law Quarterly*: Public Meetings and Public Order—(1) "Belgium," by H. Leiz, Ministry of Justice; (2) "France," Albert Gigot, sometime Prefect of Police; (3) "Switzerland," Prof. K. G. König. "The Canadian Constitution," J. E. C. Munro. *Nineteenth Century*: "Civilisation in the United States," Matthew Arnold; "The Breakdown of our Industrial System," Kropotkin; "A Model Factory," Earl of Meath; "The Chinese in Australia," Sir John Pope Hennessey. *Fortnightly Review*: "The Destruction of Self-Government," T. G. Bowles; "Healthy Homes for the Working Classes," D. F. Schloss. *National Review*: "Education in Agriculture," Prof. Wallace; "Free Trade and the Economists," Earl of Pembroke. *Blackwood's*: "The Central African Question"; "The Police of the North Sea," W. Morris Colles. *Contemporary Review*: "Fredrick III.," Max Müller; "Old Jacobinism and New Morality," Prof. A. V. Dicey; "A Glance at North Africa," Grant Allen; "Islam and Civilisation," Canon MacColl; "Socialism and the Unemployed," Arthur Arnold; "The Irish Landlords' Appeal for Compensation," Michael Davitt. *Temple Bar*: "Recollections of Charles Dickens." *Journal of Education*: "James Cotter Morison," Edmund Gosse. *Macmillan's*: "The Laws of Property," Lord Coleridge. *Longman's*: "The Endowment of the Daughter," Walter Besant.

Not a Paternal State but a Fraternal state is what Socialists want? You growlers for individualism, can't you see a difference?—*The People*.

An action is being brought against Andrea Costa, the Socialist deputy to the Italian Camera at Mantua for incitement to riot in the late demonstrations at Rome.

THE IMAGE BREAKER.

WHEN the traditional gods once trusted most  
Grow meaningless dull idols to the sight,  
When loathing stretches forth its hand to smite  
Some coveted sweetness secretly engrossed;  
When the light fails upon an unknown coast  
And weak limbs vainly wander through the night,  
What hope of him in the world's war to fight  
Whose heart is ready to give up the ghost?

But he whose soul is resolute yet shall trace  
Sure paths in sunshine, well content at last  
To share the joys and sorrows of his race;  
And seeing the gods—whose symbols in the past  
He ignorantly worshipped—face to face,  
Become a pitiless iconoclast.

REGINALD A. BECKETT.

THE DISPOSAL OF THE UNFITTEST.

"Emigrate! Emigrate!"  
Cry the Captains of the State,  
"Though in far colonial fields  
Life no better promise yields;  
Though all's one abroad or here,  
Wages low and living dear;  
Where the devil you're to go  
How should we profess to know?  
Still, to ease us of a weight,  
Emigrate! emigrate!"

"Emigrate! emigrate!"  
Are we mad that we should bate  
Aught of our accustomed spoil  
Of the produce of your toil?  
Since that toil no more affords

Easy gains to us your lords,  
Worn-out workers, don't you see?  
We dismiss you, you are free,  
Free to seek a fairer fate,  
Emigrate! emigrate!"

Emigrate! emigrate!  
Thus the scoundrels ply the bait.  
"Hold," the victim might reply,  
"You were better spared than I;  
Go, yourselves; take share and scrip  
To amuse you on the trip,  
Take your cash-box; we demand  
Nothing more than tools and land.  
Though you leave us desolate,  
Emigrate! emigrate!"

C. W. BECKETT.

CORRESPONDENCE.

A CAPTIOUS CRITIC.

William Thompson seems to me to be a somewhat captious critic. I am a man of peace, but there comes to my mind a short passage in Lord Macaulay's article on "John Hampden" which seems worth quotation, "Hampden, on the other hand, was for vigorous and decisive measures. . . He had shown that he knew better than any public man of his time how to value and how to practise moderation. But he knew that the essence of war is violence, and that moderation in war is imbecility." Perhaps it is no part of my business to defend Kitz, but it is just a trifle tiresome to see such twopenny-halfpenny quibbling as that in last week's *Weal*.

I maintain that shopkeepers, as simply public servants, and nothing else, that it is no part of their business to act as press censors, and that when they do so it is a duty to teach them better morals. If a man refuses to sell to me a copy of the *Commonweal* and persists in thrusting on me the *Rock*, it is not only common sense to deal with some more obliging tradesman, but it is also something of a duty to encourage the more obliging of the two and give him the whole of whatever advantage may accrue to him for his accommodating method of business, and therefore to purchase all my papers of him.

Now for my own bone with our curious friend. What in thunder is the matter with and where is the discrepancy in the note re Odger. There is a simple fact stated. I do not find it stated anywhere that Waterlow "is a very wicked person indeed." It is a matter of simple fact and arithmetic. The Tory polled 4686, Odger polled 4382, 304 less than the Tory. Waterlow an absolute outsider and without any real chance from the start, therefore, wasted 2966 votes, of which less than a ninth part—which would assuredly have gone to Odger, Waterlow absent—would have put Odger top of the poll; if that is not a shameful offering up of the labour candidate to the "Sir," I don't know what is. Try again, friend Thompson. T. S.

When the people sleep on their rights they die.—*Ernest Jones*.

THE COST OF A RICH MAN.—"At the smallest average for the making of a single rich man we make a thousand whose life long is one flood of misery. The charnel houses of poverty are in the shadow of the palace, and as one is splendid, so is the other dark, poisonous, degraded. How can a man grow rich except on the spoils of others' labour? His boasted prudence and economy, what is it but the most skillfully availing himself of their necessities, most resolutely closing up his heart against their cries to him for help?"—*J. A. Froude* in '*Nemesis of Faith*.'

THE BLESSINGS OF CIVILISATION.—"Anyone who is acquainted with the state of the population of all great industrial centres, whether in this or other countries, is aware that amidst a large and increasing body of that population there reigns supreme . . . that condition which the French call *la misère*—a word for which I do not think there is an exact English equivalent. It is a condition in which the food, warmth, and clothing which are necessary for the mere maintenance of the functions of the body in their normal state cannot be obtained, in which men, women, and children are forced to crowd into dens wherein decency is abolished and the most ordinary conditions of healthful existence are impossible of attainment—in which the pleasures within reach are reduced to brutality and drunkenness—in which the pains accumulate at compound interest, in the shape of starvation, disease, stunted development, and moral degradation—in which the prospect of even steady and honest industry is a life of unsuccessful battling with hunger, rounded by a pauper's grave. When the organisation of society, instead of mitigating this tendency, tends to continue and intensify it, when a given social order plainly makes for evil and not for good, men naturally enough begin to think it high time to try a fresh experiment. I take it to be a mere plain truth that throughout industrial Europe there is not a single large manufacturing city which is free from a vast mass of people whose condition is exactly that described, and from a still greater mass who, living just on the edge of the social swamp, are liable to be precipitated into it."—*Professor Huxley* in *Nineteenth Century for February*.



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

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

**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.**

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G. M'L.—Thanks. Our poetry file is so full that we cannot reprint the lines.

#### Periodicals received during the week ending Wednesday April 4.

ENGLAND			
Die Autonomie	Chicago (Ill.)—Knights of Labor	Milan—Il Fascio Operaio	
Jus	Denver (Col.) Labor Enquirer	Marsala—La Nuova Eta	
Justice	Fort Worth (Tex.)—South West	Cremona—La Feccia	
Leaflet Newspaper	Milwaukee (Wis.)—Volksblatt	Bani—Municipaliu	
London—Freie Presse	N Haven—Workmen's Advocate	SPAIN	
Labour Tribune	St. Louis (Mo.)—Die Parole	El Productor	
The Miner	San Francisco Arbeiter-Zeitung	Madrid—El Socialista	
Norwich—Daylight	Coast Seaman's Journal	PORTUGAL	
Railway Review	Freethought	Porto—A Revolucion Social	
Worker's Friend	FRANCE		
NEW SOUTH WALES			
Hamilton—Radical	Paris—Cri du Peuple (daily)	GERMANY	
INDIA			
Bankipore—Behar Herald	La Revolte	Berlin—Volks Tribune	
Madras—People's Friend	L'Autonomie Individuelle	AUSTRIA	
UNITED STATES			
People	Le Coup de Feu	Arbeiterstimme	
New York—Freiheit	Journal du Peuple	Brunn—Volksfreund	
Der Sozialist	Guise—Le Devoir	Vienna—Gleichheit	
Truthseeker	HOLLAND		
Volkzeitung	Hague—Recht voor Allen	Arbeiter-Wochen-Chronik	
Boston—Woman's Journal	BELGIUM		
Liberty	Ghent—Vooruit	Denmark	
Chicago—Labor Enquirer	Liege—L'Avenir	Social-Demokraten	
Vorbote	SWITZERLAND		
	Zurich—Sozial Demokrat	Sueden	
	Przedsurt	Stockholm, Social-Demokraten	
	ITALY		
	Gazetta Operaia	Malmö—Arbetet	
		NORWAY	
		Kristiania—Social-Democraten	

## HURRY UP!

SOME people are never tired of praising the wonderful development of quickness in all branches of industry nowadays. They tell you with pride that this is a lightning age; the telegraph will carry your thoughts across the world in a twinkling; the railway will whirl you at marvellous speed from end to end of the country; inventions of machinery enable men to produce goods a thousand times more quickly than before. In the mad race for markets, "every hour must sweat its sixty minutes to the death." We have no time to rest; there is no ceasing, night or day, in this struggle for profits. And middle-classdom looks on, and praises this high pressure of unceasing expenditure of force as one of the great benefits of modern civilisation.

I have come to look very doubtfully on the blessings of civilisation; considering them, indeed, to be no blessings at all, not even in disguise, but mainly curses, whose influence for evil it is well-nigh impossible to compute. And in spite of the praises that our commercial classes shower upon it, I can see no blessing whatever in this vastly increased intensity, this power of ceaseless hurrying that characterises our lives to-day. For what good can there be in passing our time in toil, and leaving ourselves no leisure to enjoy the result of that toil? Of course the privilege of living in a constant and life-long expenditure of force pertains only to the workers; leisure and the full enjoyment of the product of labour do exist, but not for those who create the means of that enjoyment. Notice, too, that the praises of the system are loudest in the mouths of those who enjoy its results without sharing the work of producing them.

Here, then, is a sight for civilised man to boast of: myriads of men toiling day and night; piling up wealth, but never stopping to enjoy it; hurrying themselves into the grave, as if the mere effort of work were in itself the aim of life. Their toil is not performed in order that they may sit down quietly after it is done and enjoy its results, but solely to give a bare sufficiency of the necessities of life to enable them to repeat the toil on the morrow; and so on year after year, till the toil ends only with the life.

Hurry up!—that is our plan of action now. Accidents innumerable happen,—there is no time to take proper precautions against them. Hundreds of lives are lost every year on our railways, because there is no time for the signalman to rest or relax his strained attention for a moment, and, in the nervousness that overtaxed exertion brings on, a mistake is made, too often fraught with awful fatality. According to the journal of the mission to deep-sea fishermen, about 50 per cent. of the men on board the North Sea fleets suffer from various kinds of

accidents, owing to the fact that for weeks together they know no rest; sleep is taken in hurried snatches, and the overwrought frame falls a victim to some mistake, the cause of which is aggravated by the perilous surroundings of the work. In our factories, what wonder is it that the unresting machinery claims so many victims? There is no time for the machinery to stop; it must be oiled and cleaned while going, and very often the worker is entrapped to death by the system of hurry that forces him to thus risk himself. There is no time to allow boilers to cool; they must be cleaned at the peril of a worker's life. No time for anything except the unceasing production of goods for others to enjoy!

The greater intensity of machine work over handicraft, and the fearful strain of long hours, have produced nervous diseases in the worker, and wear out his frame far more rapidly than ever,—an advance in rapidity that our middle-class enthusiasts for civilisation forget most conveniently when they are recounting the glorious wonders of "our increased powers of working quickly." Not only can we produce goods more quickly, but in the process we can destroy men with an equal quickness. If this system could only bring out its dead for men to look upon, there were an argument that would surely show us how much too dearly we have paid for the privilege of increased production; an argument appealing at any rate to those who consider that the welfare of its members, and not its balance at the banker's, is the standard of the success of a system of society.

The workers of the world do not know what life really is: true, they exist—some of them—from day to day; but life, full of glorious possibilities, is far more than mere existence, and ought, to be real life, to include all those pleasurable emotions that education amongst beautiful things and full development of one's nature can give. From this real life the worker is shut out by the beneficent civilisation that surrounds him in this age of hurry. Even the domestic delights that are proverbially supposed to gather round the home life are forbidden to him. There are men, a great number of them, who never see their children during the winter except by candle-light; the little ones are abed before the father gets home from work, and not awake until he is gone in the morning. His time off work is just long enough to allow him to take the food and sleep needed to brace him up for the next day; and every next day the same. This is not life; swine can enjoy as wide an existence as this.

Under the rule of commerce there is but one standard by which all things are judged. "Will it pay?" To this standard commercialism brings everything; love, honour, beauty, manliness—will they pay? If not, then love, honour, and beauty may go to the devil; commercialism will have nothing to do with them unless it can make a profit out of them. There is no time to be wasted on such sentimental foolishness as making the world brighter, unless a good sound percentage comes of it. It is surely no wonder that under such principles Art should leave us, and every spark of generous feeling should die out, leaving but the cold ashes of formalism behind. The workman, when he was a workman and not a mere machine, had leisure to make his work real and to beautify it: now we have no time for reality made beautiful but only for machine-made shoddy, as ugly as one could ill imagine, whose quality matters nothing, seeing that it is made to sell quickly and not to use well.

One day the world may perhaps grow wise enough to learn that there are many things to be done on this side of death, and the chiefest of them is to be happy. A wise society aims at the happiness of its members, and labours only for the sake of producing the means of this happiness. Fools that we are to-day, we have builded but entered not in; have sacrificed the end of life to a constant effort to get at the means to that end, and having the means, never dream of using them to their proper end. We have been producing so much of the means of happiness, that the effort has left us no time to be happy!

FRED HENDERSON.

## SOCIALISM AND PROGRESS.

ONE of the commonest objections urged against Socialism is that it will take away all stimulus to progress, that we should settle down into a quiet monotonous existence, eating, working, and sleeping without care and without any stimulus to invention, and with no competition to force men to seek new methods of cheapening production.

Now in arguing with opponents, there is one thing which we have to remember—namely, that an argument is no use unless it is based upon some ground which our opponent will admit. One often uses arguments which, were we to place ourselves in our opponent's position, we should be obliged to acknowledge would not have much effect upon us. For example, what is the use of trying to convert secularists to Christianity by arguments drawn from the Bible, which are based on the assumption of the special inspiration of those who wrote it, while all the time the people whom it is sought to convert deny the inspiration? And yet how often do we hear this done. Or, for the sake of impartiality, to give the other side, how often do we hear secularists using arguments to convert Christians which only apply to a particularly narrow evangelical creed which many Christians dislike as heartily as they do. In the same way, we Socialists must not be content with an argument if it satisfies us, but we must try to place ourselves in the position occupied by our opponents and see if we can give our arguments a form that will appeal to them, see if we can base them on some ground which they will be likely to admit. In trying to meet this very common objection about the lack of stimulus, it is not enough



to say that our objector is mistaken; that competition crushes rather than stimulates the best individual enterprise and invention; that, far from any lack of invention resulting from Socialism, the conditions will be such as to give scope for a large number of inventors who are at present kept out of sight. All this may be true—probably it is; but it is just what our objector does not believe, he believes that all our inventors are stimulated by the hope of making great gains out of their inventions, and he thinks that if we take away that stimulus they will give over inventing.

Well, there are several points that we may take up and consider without begging the question. First, then, how far is it true that the chance of gain is held out as an inducement to all classes of discoverers sufficiently obviously for us to be justified in looking upon that as the probable motive for their efforts? Here a division at once occurs to us between the class of discoverers who make original researches and the class who apply the results of these researches to practical industrial uses. With regard to the first class, we may, I think, fairly contend that the chance of their reaping pecuniary reward is so small that it would be absurd to regard it as their chief motive. How seldom do we hear of an original researcher who makes any pecuniary gain out of his labour! The microscopist poring for days over his work discovers some minute creature which is harmful to man; he finds out what are the conditions favourable to its growth and what to its destruction, thus conferring a great benefit on mankind; but there is no pecuniary result for him to look forward to. In the same way, the discoverers of almost all the properties and laws of matter, of water, and of gases, upon which our wonderful industrial forces and arts are based—these men have not reaped great fortunes; they have often been poor enthusiasts, neglecting even the necessities of their own existence in their eager desire to find out the unknown. To say that competition or the desire for wealth have stimulated such men is, I think, not only untrue, but absurdly so.

We now come to the second class—those who have made practical applications of the discoveries of the former class. Here I think we may admit that competition and the love of gain have done something in stimulating invention, though hardly as much as our opponents make out. Supposing the scientist has discovered after years of patient study some chemical means of filtering certain noxious properties out of water; although the love of gain has not influenced him, yet it may be the stimulus which sets someone contriving and producing a handy practical filter embodying the discovery of the unpaid scientist. I may remark, in passing, on the manifest injustice, from our opponents' point of view even, of the way this stimulus acts. The men who toil patiently and faithfully for years seeking knowledge reap none of this pecuniary reward, while the man who comes in at the last point, and, taking advantage of all these discoveries made by generations of patient workers, adds the last touch to embody the result in a cheap and marketable form, he it is who gets the pecuniary reward—sometimes! For it is quite as often reserved for the man who chances to have capital enough to place the article in large quantities on the market!

But even of this class of inventions a large number are the result of other circumstances; as when Humphrey Potter invented an automatic method of opening and shutting the valves of the engine he was in charge of, it was not the love of gain or the force of competition which prompted the invention, but the desire for time to play. There is no doubt that a great many improvements have been prompted in a similar way by the desire of a man to ease himself of part of his work by making the machine do it for him.

I think we may fairly say that only a portion of the inventions connected with the practical application of discoveries to industrial purposes can be considered to have been stimulated by our present competitive system. We may now further consider whether this system has any tendency to prevent certain classes of inventors from coming to the fore. I think in one respect particularly we may expect that it has had such influence: I mean in the sort of invention workmen are likely to make to ease their own work. There is no doubt that when a man is constantly employed at certain work he will be very likely to think whether he could save himself in the amount of his work, supposing that such saving would be an advantage to him. But under the present condition of things can it be said that the workers have any idea that a reduction in the amount of work would be an advantage to them? On the contrary, they are more inclined to make work, and look with dislike rather than with favour upon any new labour-saving appliances. I am not an inventor of machinery myself, but as a designer I must say that it is often a trial to me to be set to design machinery for the express purpose of displacing labour, and I certainly should not feel disposed to give my spare time to trying to invent any such. For I cannot but think, in spite of the economists' reasoning to the contrary, that labour displaced by machinery is not always taken on in another quarter to an equal extent. However that may be, it is certain that the experience of the last fifty years has not altered the workman's opinion that machinery is his rival rather than his servant, and this feeling, I am sure, must have acted to check invention.

Another point, which our opponent will, I think, hardly deny, is that some men are moved more by one stimulus and some by another; and that even if we grant to him that a large part of the inventions of modern times have been stimulated by the present competition and race for wealth, that we may at least expect that if we change the system there will be found many men who might be stimulated by other motives under new conditions. *E.g.*, if it became apparent to all that an invention would be a benefit to the workers in lightening their toil, instead of being, as is now thought, a rival to them, many

men would be stimulated by the wish for the good of their fellows—the general gratitude which would be accorded to one evidently a benefactor—who are now not stimulated by competition or greed. Moreover the new conditions which would obtain under Socialism would leave greater leisure for all and so more time to devote to inventive work, and they would give a chance to many quiet thoughtful inventors, who now have not the requisite amount of self-assertion to bring an invention to the front in a competitive market.

There is one branch of science even now where a man is not allowed to use his discoveries for his own gain, but must make them the common property of the faculty. I allude, of course, to medical science. A doctor who kept his discovery to himself and traded on it would be boycotted by the whole profession. In this way much of the ordinary stimulus of private gain is taken away, and yet it cannot be said that there is no progress in the medical faculty; nor do I think it could be shown that progress was at all retarded by this lack of stimulus.

To sum up more concisely the line of argument which may be taken with those whose chief difficulty is this question of lack of stimulus—and they form a large class—we may fairly claim that in the department of original scientific research the stimulus of competition and love of gain is practically inoperative, so that the most important part of our subject is put out of the reach of our opponents' argument, for we must all agree that the great foundation discoveries are of more importance than the practical applications arising from them; these latter will be almost sure to arise sooner or later when once the principles and properties have been discovered. The conditions of Socialism, by giving greater leisure to all and relieving men of their anxiety about getting a living, will be favourable rather than otherwise to original research. Man is an inquisitive animal; give him a chance and he will seek the unknown in all directions. In the line of practical application, we may admit that a good number of modern inventions have been due to the stimulus of competition; at the same time, we may claim that the conditions resulting from this competition have tended to discourage workmen from inventing in some ways. We may also fairly expect that the new conditions under Socialism, which will take away the stimulus of competition and greed, will put in their place the gratitude of the people to a manifest benefactor, and the desire to benefit our fellows and lighten their toil, which we may hope will appeal to as large and as useful a class of inventors.

But even supposing that the event should prove that the men with capacity for practically applying discoveries to the useful arts can only be appealed to by the stimulus of pecuniary gain, there would be nothing to hinder a Socialist community from offering a reward to the best practical application of some discovery. As a rule, a thing is known in the laboratory a long time before any practical (which generally means sufficiently cheap) way of applying it is invented. The electric light was known long before it could be made cheaply enough to become a practically useful light.

The Ordnance Survey department of our Government is a standing proof that discoveries and improvements do not depend entirely on competition. The arts of surveying, map-making, and map-printing have been greatly improved by this department, and some very important processes discovered by men almost as much outside the reach of the stimulus of competition as if they had lived in a Socialist community.

We are apt to over estimate the amount due to the last inventor in any machine or process who brings it practically into use. It is as though we should give great credit for the making of a locomotive to the man who finally oils it and starts it: he but sets going a machine made and perfected by others. Very often the inventor who gets all the credit and the gain from a discovery does little more than set it going; he perhaps simplifies it a little or cheapens its production, thus bringing what was already discovered within the range of commercial or industrial utility.

It so often occurs that the same discovery or invention is made by several people at once in different parts of the world, that it is in some cases only chance which gives the credit and gain to one man; if he hadn't done it another would.

On the whole, I think there is no great ground to fear lack of inventive work under Socialism; it is such a plastic system that it will be able to accommodate itself in details to the conditions which it will in part cause. If certain classes of inventors will not work without pecuniary stimulus, Socialism will be able to give it. The Government of France frequently, I believe, takes in hand various questions and stimulates by various means their solution. But I think it will be found that the best and most useful inventors will do as good work for the sake of benefitting their fellow-men and earning their gratitude as they now do for the sake of gain. And even if we do not go on inventing cheaper and more varied fabrics to the extent that we have done in the past, it will be some compensation that every one at least will have the wherewithal to clothe himself. And if our power generally of producing the means of living should not increase so rapidly under Socialism as it has done under competition, it will be no small set off if we can all have a chance of learning how to use wisely what we do produce—in short, how to *live*; and after all, "The life is more than meat and the body than raiment." RAYMOND UNWIN.

We look forward to a time when society will no longer be divided into the idle and the industrious; when the rule that they who do not work shall not eat, will be applied, not to paupers only, but impartially to all; and when the division of the produce of labour will be made by concert on an acknowledged principle of justice.—*J. S. Mill.*

# THE LABOUR STRUGGLE.

## BRITAIN.

The Edinburgh masons have voted by a large majority in favour of an eight hours' day to be secured by Act of Parliament.

The men at Penston colliery in East Lothian, have got warning of a 10 per cent. break. Notices to that effect were posted on their pit-heads at the beginning of last week.

**DOMESTIC SERVANTS.**—Thirty-one thousand domestic servants are computed officially to have emigrated from England last year. It is calculated that there are to-day an equal number of trained servants out of employ in the Metropolis alone.

**STOPPAGE OF A FACTORY.**—It is stated that the works which belonged to the firm of Messrs. Morison, Anderson, and Butchart, Dundee, will in all likelihood be closed after the machinery has been cleared of the material presently in process of manufacture. About 800 or 900 hands will thus be thrown out of employment.

**SMELTERS' STRIKE AT HOLYTOWN.**—The dispute at Clydesdale Iron Works still continues. In support of the position taken up by the steel-smelters, a demonstration was got up on Saturday, in which sympathisers from Bloch-airn and other works took part. The police (who had been on duty since the previous Monday, when a slight collision occurred among the strikers) were present in considerable force, but nothing requiring their interference occurred.

**LINLITHGOW SHOEMAKERS.**—Considerable distress at present prevails among the shoemakers of Linlithgow consequent on the failure of employers to secure, as formerly, a share of Government contracts for the manufacture of military boots. Large numbers of workmen are now idle, and while many have gone elsewhere in quest of employment, nevertheless the effects of dull trade are being keenly felt on all hands. A goodly number of the workmen have been employed for some time past by the Police Commissioners breaking metal for the streets; but even at this but a small pittance is obtained. So far there are no signs of an improvement in the leather trade.

**BOILERMAKERS AND IRON SHIPBUILDERS.**—The annual report for 1877 of the United Society of Boilermakers and Iron Shipbuilders has just been published. The list of unemployed members is conclusive as to the effect of the terrible depression which commenced in 1883. The total income for the year amounted to £70,551, 11s. 10d., while the expenditure included £22,165, 6s. 6d. paid to the unemployed—an element that had cost them £170,410 during the past four years—£17,165, 9s. 5d. for sick benefit, £3149, 17s. 2d. in benevolence, £4657, 16s. 4d. for superannuation, and £3485, 10s. for funeral benefit. Their disputes during the year had only cost them £1131, 16s. 3d. The total expenditure for the year amounted to £67,445, 11s. 11d., leaving a balance of £25,001, 5s. 2d. The society at present consists of 214 branches, with 24,860 members, a decrease in the membership for the year of 481.

**SWEATING IN THE SHOE TRADE.**—A representative of the *Shoe and Leather Record* has been making some inquiries in the East-end which reveals the wretchedness of the lives of many whose existence is dependent upon the boot and shoe trade. One room he entered he thus describes: "Besides the six workers there were in the room two women and two little girls. The latter appeared to be waiting for some fish that the mother was cooking for supper in the same room in the small hours of the morning. The master (he is a master sweater) showed me one pair which he had back from shop because the bottoms were not clean enough. I have seen some rubbish in guise of boots and shoes, but these were the worst I have ever seen. It is horrible and pitiful to think that men should wear out their lives in the manufacture of such wastrel products. Here are some of the prices: Girls' kid button, strip waist, 2s. 3d. per doz.; women's kid shoes, strip waist, 3s. 9d. doz.; mock kid shoes, black waists, 2s. 6d.; lasting S.S., paper heels, 2s. 3d.; children's leather-lined, 1s. 6d. doz." The writer's informant, whose name, of course, he does not give, used some strong expletives in condemning the conduct of his employer, whose constant threat seems to be that if his unfortunate slaves don't come to his terms he can get others who will.

**SCIENTIFIC DRESSMAKERS.**—A Trade and Benefit Society for Scientific Dressmakers has been formed. Lady Dilke is treasurer; A. E. Sparke, secretary. Offices 27 Margaret Street, London, W. The entrance fee is 1s., and the weekly payment twopenny and fourpence. Those paying twopenny will be entitled to 5s. per week in case of sickness or out of work; those paying fourpenny 10s. per week. There will also be provision made for old age. As the society is to be a real trades union and not a semi-philanthropic scheme the contributions appear too small to cover expenses. It is to be hoped, however, that the dressmakers will largely avail themselves of such a much-needed opportunity for improving their social condition. Women are now ceasing to be regarded for the most part merely as chattels to be bought and sold in the marriage market, and are more and more taking their share as individuals in the labour struggle. As yet, however, they do not understand very clearly that their so-called liberty is really a sham; that like the emancipated negroes of South America, they are but exchanging servitude to a master to become the slaves of a class. By their lack of solidarity they are almost completely at the mercy of the employing classes, thereby not only having to work long hours for scant pay, but tending to lower the level of subsistence for the whole of the workers. Women have too often in the past been willing tools in opposing the efforts of their brothers to better the conditions of labour, e.g., the Factory Acts; and therefore I gladly welcome everything that will help to bring about a common understanding between the workers, irrespective of sex and occupation.

**CLEANING MACHINERY DURING MEAL HOURS.**—An employer in the Shaw districts, near Oldham, has proposed to the spinners that if they will sign a declaration stating that they hold themselves responsible if any of their piecers are caught by the factory inspector performing any kind of work during prohibited hours, that he on his part will undertake to allow the spinners to stop their mules during the engine hours for the purpose of performing all the necessary cleaning and oiling which has been done in the meal hours. This is an excellent proposition, and one that the workers ought heartily to welcome. Unfortunately, the system of piece-work is a great hindrance in putting an end to the objectionable and slavish practice of working during meal-hours. The spinners are forced to shine one against the other to produce the full tally of yarn turned out by the best man in the mill for fear of dismissal, and in order to stand well with the overlookers. The consequence is that they have to run their mules every minute it is possible to do. At another mill in the same district, an instance has

occurred of the selfishness engendered by the competitive wage-system in connection with this matter of cleaning. The employer conceded the right of the men to stop their mules during engine-hours to do all the requisite cleaning, and in order that they might not lose by the change, granted them an increase in the piece-work price. The consequence was that in the course of a few weeks, first one spinner, then another, commenced to do their cleaning in the meal hours and to compel the piecers to assist them, all for the sake of earning a shilling or so more per week. The employer hearing of the matter at once reduced the piece-work price, and the old system was reverted to. "In such a case," says the *Cotton Factory Times*, "it was a pity the employer did not discharge the spinners who broke through the arrangement. If he had done so it would have been a suitable warning to others, and perhaps have been the means of inducing other employers to follow his example. When spinners are given such a chance as the employers referred to offered their men of dispensing with the necessity of piecers having to work during meal times, and they don't avail themselves of the opportunity, by all means they should be held responsible, and made to feel their responsibility by being summoned in all cases where the inspectors may find their piecers at work during prohibited hours."

## REVOLUTIONARY CALENDAR.

WEEK ENDING APRIL 14, 1888.

8	Sun.	1848. Trial of "Chartist" rioters. 1884. Labour Riots at Kidderminster.
9	Mon.	1626. Lord Bacon died. 1747. Lord Lovat beheaded for complicity in the '45 rebellion.
10	Tues.	1820. Sir Chas. Wolseley and Rev. M. Harrison tried for sedition. 1848. The Chartist Demonstration on Kennington Common. 1883. Trial of "Invincibles" began at Dublin.
11	Wed.	1814. Napoleon abdicated. 1887. Anti-Coercion Demonstration in Hyde Park.
12	Thur.	1793. Phillips imprisoned for selling 'Rights of Man.' 1871. Pierre Leroux died. 1879. Nihilist Address to the Czar. 1885. Eight Hours' Labour-day Demonstration held in London.
13	Fri.	1812. Luddite Riot at Leeds. 1829. Catholic Emancipation Bill passed. 1861. Taking of Fort Sumter begins American Civil War. 1872. Samuel Bamford died.
14	Sat.	1865. Abraham Lincoln assassinated. 1879. Solovieff's attempt upon the Czar.

*Labour Riots at Kidderminster.*—Certain employers whose workmen were on strike, imported weavers from other parts of the country. Whereupon serious rioting took place, considerable damage was done, and many persons injured on both sides. "Order" was at length "restored" by a cavalry regiment, and things went on as before.—S.

*Francis Bacon died.*—Francis Bacon, Baron Verulam and Viscount St. Albans. How many of the thousands who day after day pass along Gray's Inn Road and under the shadow of one of the ugliest masses of brickwork in the whole of London, connect "Verulam" Buildings with one of the world's greatest philosophers? He was born at York House, in the Strand, January 22, 1561; the youngest son of Sir Nicholas Bacon, Keeper of the Great Seal for twenty years of Elizabeth's reign. Nicholas Bacon marks a very important period in English history, he being one of the first "professional" statesmen England produced. A form of "sub-division of labour (?) and "specialisation" for which we have no great reason to be thankful, despite their "reforming" ideas; which set some to be priests, some soldiers, and some statesmen; and which has made as Volney says "a privileged class distinct from the people, who acquire wealth by taking pains to govern," and swindle and betray. In Francis Bacon the principle of "heredity" seems to tell largely; his father was of considerable talent and his mother one of the most learned women of the period, and although after his father's very sudden death in 1580 Francis passed through some years in obscurity, he ultimately passed his father in dignity of offices and renown. Francis was probably one of the youngest students who ever entered Trinity College, Cambridge, which he did at the age of thirteen; staying there some three years and then going to Paris and travelling France. A newspaper writer recently remarked on the fact that Mr. Gladstone's private secretaries are almost always men of talent who make a name, while Lord Salisbury's don't. The Cecil's of Bacon's time seem to have likewise had much dread of talent, and for years Bacon was kept back by their jealousy. In 1590 he was sworn Queen's Counsel; 1593 he was M.P. for Middlesex. In 1597, he first appeared as author. On February, 1601, Earl of Essex was executed, to which end Bacon largely contributed after years of lavish favours at the hands of Essex. March, 1603, Elizabeth died; James VI. of Scotland became James I. of England, and Bacon's sun began to rise. He was knighted and married; 1604 appointed King's Counsel, 1607 Solicitor-General, and in 1612 Attorney-General. He was largely responsible for Union of Scotland with England. In 1616 he was sworn as Privy Councillor, and in 1617 Keeper of the Great Seal, and little later Lord Chancellor. In spite of all this he found time to do such literary and philosophical work as will live years after the memory of his shameful fall shall have almost died out. It is a strange commentary on human nature, that the man who could act as a vigorous prosecutor for a tyrant, as in the case of Earl of Essex and the Star Chamber villains, could attend a prisoner under torture to wring some incriminating word, as in the case of Rev. Mr. Peacham, could, or years accept bribes for his legal decisions, should study and write as he did "to multiply human enjoyments and mitigate human sufferings." As a philosopher he will rank as one of the most worthy of honour; as a statesman, lawyer, and judge as one of the worst on record, a mean, cowardly lickspittle and traitor to his best friend. To Socialists he is somewhat interesting as author of "Atlantis," which, however, is a very imperfect social scheme. He was the great apostle of experimental philosophy and its martyr, for he caught a cold while stuffing a fowl with snow, having conceived the idea of meat preservation by freezing. He died at Highgate, April 9, 1626.—T. S.

*The Great Chartist Demonstration.*—On Kennington Common, April 10, 1848, was one of those days which seem to be made to just exactly show how very different the English are to the French. Given three or four months of excitement and ferment, red hot oratory and friction between authorities and people, given such a gang of tricksters and bullies as Parliament then was, and then given such a meeting of people as gathered on the Common that day, given then in France with their practise in upspilling governments, there would have been such a clearing of the political atmosphere as would have been to the advantage of the whole world. That the government guessed something of this can be seen by the preparations made. Troops from Windsor, Hounslow, Chichester, Chatham, and even Dover and Winchester, were poured into London. Heavy artillery from Woolwich; the Marines at the Admiralty. Broad swords and

pistols served out to the police, and two thousand stand of arms served out to the clerks at the post-offices. Dock labourers sworn as specials, churches turned into barracks and filled with troops; public vehicles prohibited running so they should not be used as barricades. Practically the whole available army and navy were under orders for immediate action, for steam was kept up on board such vessels as were handy to bring up fresh troops if wanted. The government won. The monster petition which was to have been drawn on a cart to the House was bundled up on three cabs, and taken by a deputation down to the House after the meeting was concluded. Feargus O'Connor had a very nasty dish to swallow at that meeting, but it was not the first time he had to eat his own words, and still he survived.—T. S.

**Death of Pierre Leroux.**—The founder of the system known in history of Socialism as the Doctrine of Humanity (*La Doctrine de l'Humanité*) was born in 1798, and died at Paris, April 12, 1871. The Commune of Paris gave him a worthy funeral, acknowledging thereby the great services he had rendered to the cause of the emancipation of mankind. From 1848 down to us, little notice has been taken of him either as a philosopher or as a Socialist. As a philosopher, it is said that he belonged to some kind of a mystical school, wishing to bring about a sort of neo-Christianity much larger and more progressive than Christianity of olden type, but nevertheless religious in its essence. As a Socialist he is nothing else than an "utopian dreamer" as our modern doctors in economical science style it, and such an utopist is a very contemptible man indeed! We think both assertions wrong, and are of opinion that even nowadays the writings of Pierre Leroux may be read with a considerable amount of fruit and good result for the reader. Leroux is rather a representative of the ideas which prevailed in the first part of this century which, endeavouring to resume the positive tradition of the eighteenth century, suddenly interrupted by the first Empire, could only succeed in it by passing through various new religious hypotheses. Disciple of Saint Simon, even after the secession of the sect of *Erfantim*, he remained convinced that the social reorganisation required a religious transformation. However, his religion of humanity as he calls it, is so closely connected with commutative justice and universal solidarity pure and simple, that he can no longer be said to belong to the old spiritualistic schools of philosophical thought. Then again his tendencies towards absolute equality, and his incessant endeavouring to bring to the front the study of the various social problems, separate him absolutely and radically from these former schools. As far back as 1834, Leroux tried to edit a general encyclopedia, in which are to be found several very important works, as for instance, his vigorous criticism of Eclecticism, which struck a terrible blow to M. Cousin, at that time a kind of *pontifex maximus* of French philosophy. As a Socialist he wrote several works, which even to-day have not lost their interest, as 'Plutocracy' (*La Ploutocratie*), the 'Malthusians,' 'Equality,' which may be called important economical productions, whatever the modern "scientific" Socialists may think of them. So, for instance, we may say that the question of the *hours of labour*, to which Marx has devoted so much care and so long researches, has been elucidated by Leroux forty years ago in a masterly production which, although it has not the scientific precision of Marx's investigations, forms nevertheless a very lucid *exposé* of the whole question, and of that special question in its relations to the whole social problem. Pierre Leroux has formed a good number of distinguished disciples, among whom we may name his two brothers, Jules and Charles Leroux, his son Luc Lesages, and Aug. Desmoulin, then Grégoire Champseix, Louis Nettré, Pauline Roland, Tañandier, Paul Rochery, Edmund and Charles Frossard, Adolphe Berteault, Ulysse Charpentier, Emile Aucante, Ad. Paraud, Terson, Raban, Armand, Yverneaud, Ed. Desjardins, Vandamme, Robert du Var, and several others. In 1845, Leroux and his followers decided to form an agricultural colony in order to make propaganda in the provinces, and to experiment in communistic organisation. Fifty-two persons joined in the enterprise, and settled at Boussac, in the Creuse Department. This colony, which would have been a success but for want of practical knowledge in its inhabitants, was dissolved after the Revolution of 1848, when Leroux was elected a member of the *Constituante*. But the influence which the founder of the Boussac colony and his friends have exercised upon the poor peasants of that country has lasted long after their departure, and even now is not quite extinct in the centre of France. I am inclined to add, for the edification of all "scientific" Socialists, that Leroux explained there at first to the ignorant peasants the famous *law of circles*, which has contributed so much to make them laugh—not the peasants but the "scientific." And yet nowadays the "utopian" *law of circles* is nothing else than the *law of restitution* of Liebig, a big scientist, developed since by the illustrious Moleschott, another big scientist! Poor Leroux!—V. D.

**A Nihilist Proclamation of Warning.**—In the space of ten days, from the 1st to the 10th of April, 1879, no less than 1,140 Nihilists were arrested throughout Russia, and in answer to this wholesale persecution the Executive Committee of the Russian revolutionists deemed it fit to draw up a proclamation, which was posted at the corners of the streets of St. Petersburg on three successive nights, and which it will be as well to preserve in our columns. It runs as follows: "To Mr. Alexander Nicolaievitch. The warning and threatening letters, as well as the sentences which we, the invisible delegates of the murderously oppressed Russian people, have sent to the various dignitaries of the present despotic government in Russia, belong as a rule to the preparative work, and for that reason, neither yourself, nor any member of your family appears in the slightest degree menaced by our executive organs. In the first instance we wish to clear out in its lowest and filthiest corners the Angean stables of despotism; to free the people from administrative persecution, which throws them guiltless into prison, and there, without compassion, chastises them and allows them to suffer from hunger and thirst, and then leads them as insurgents to the gallows or sends them to the Polar regions to work in the mines. We sit in judgment and shall be compassionless in the exercise of our office, and shall recoil from the use of no means which may lead us to our object, which is the eradication of the hellish brutality of despotism through fire and sword. The victims cry out to their executioners: *Morturi te salutant*, and if you, Alexander Nicolaievitch, refuse to hear our warning voice, to put an end to this tyranny, we hereby declare to you that tyranny will be beaten in the end. Your system in Russia is rotten to the core. Our almost boundless resources are ruined. Your army of functionaries are a gang of cruel and insatiable thieves. Your judges are a shame to justice. Your governors, police-masters, and generals are so many satraps worthy of Xerxes or Darius. Wherever we turn our eyes we see nought but stupidity mingled with cruelty, wanton waste combined with the most merciless spoliation of the people. For the army alone you reserve your fatherly care. You are getting into dangerously deep waters, Alexander Nicolaievitch. Therefore we warn you but spare your life. The Executive Committee." Two days afterwards Solovieff made his heroic attempt, and gave up his life in the hope of freeing one hundred million men.—V. D.

**Eight Hours' Demonstration.**—A meeting called by the S.D.F., numbering from 10,000 to 15,000, held in Hyde Park to demand compulsory reduction of the hours of labour in all trades to eight hours a-day and immediate organisation of the unemployed, attracted great attention from the press and public—and much abuse from the former.—S.

**Luddite Riots at Leeds.**—For some days past there had been disturbances, and on the 13th they culminated in a determined attack upon a mill at Rawfold, which had been filled with an armed garrison in readiness. After a fight of half an hour, and the exchange of some hundreds of shots, the assailants were beaten off.—S.

**The Catholic Emancipation Act.**—The Catholic Emancipation Act, like so many more Acts in the books, was passed at the very last minute to avoid civil war

(vide Duke of Wellington's speeches), and when passed giving the very smallest concession which could be palmed off on the victims. In 1823 the Catholic Association was formed by Dan O'Connell and McShiel, it was favourably received at the start, thanks to a large number of the Irish clergy giving their support, but it was not till the following year, when the subscription was made popular by monthly subscriptions of one penny, that the Association began to give the authorities a fright. Within two years the "Catholic Rent," as this subscription was known, reached about £500 per week; naturally the Government tried to suppress the Association, while they prepared at the same time some palliative. This they did in a bill apparently favourable, but which disfranchised all the small freeholders and subsidised the Irish clergy. O'Connell was soaped over to accept this, but the House of Lords, true to its usual habits, threw out the small concession. In 1826 came a general election. Soon after assembling of new Parliament, Lord Liverpool, Prime Minister, died, and Canning was put into power; he, probably not dreaming of so soon being in power, had somewhat committed himself to Catholic Emancipation, therefore the other Tory ministers struck work with the new boss, and he had to get together a new set of gangers. The Tories and the Whigs made union against Canning and his concessionists, and managed to worry him to death in a very few months with very little progress made. Lord Goderich was a stop-gap minister, and in January, 1828, came Duke of Wellington as Prime Minister, and Sir Robert Peel as Home Secretary. At the opening of the Session a petition of 800,000 Catholics was presented by the Catholic Association in favour of the repeal of the Test Act and Corporation Act. This petition in favour of Protestant Dissenters was rather a clever idea of Catholic O'Connell, and had considerable effect in repealing those Acts and also on the affairs of the Catholics, for almost directly afterwards came a bye election, when all the upper-crust politicians—of both parties—were given a smack in the face by the election of Daniel O'Connell for County Clare. The details of this government are too many to discuss here, but it assuredly helped the passing of the Emancipation Act by absolute dread of civil war. O'Connell on coming to London decided, finding that a Bill was fairly on the way, not to hamper the matter by any question as to legality of his return, so waited while the bill was brought in and cussed and discussed, as were all its supporters. The third reading was passed by a majority of thirty-six votes on March 30th, next day was carried to the Lords, and on April 2nd the second reading was moved by Duke of Wellington "to prevent civil war." After some most violent language it was passed by majority of one hundred and four, and on April 13, 1829, a nation was sold for a mess of pottage, for the concession was balanced by disfranchising the whole of the forty-nine shilling freeholders. For this O'Connell and the Irish race have reason to curse Sir Robert Peel, for by this the landlords were given a power they have used to the uttermost to the ruin of Ireland.—T. S.

**Death of Samuel Bamford.**—Samuel Bamford, weaver, poet, and Radical, was born at Middleton, Lancashire, Feb. 23, 1788, the son of an operative muslin weaver afterwards governor of Salford workhouse. Samuel received some education at Middleton, and then was sent to Manchester Grammar School. He learned weaving, and was for some time employed as a warehouseman in Manchester. Accidentally meeting with a copy of the 'Iliad' and with Milton's poems, he became disposed to study of poetry, and later on produced a number of homely verses, which were published under the title 'The Weaver Boy, or Miscellaneous Poetry,' 1819; 'Homely Rhymes,' 1843; and also some in Lancashire dialect, some being very droll. For a short time he was engaged on board a collier trading between London and Shields, and after other changes settled down as weaver. He soon became known in his district as one of the uneasy ones, and soon gained influence. Although he was a "moral force" man, and his speeches more moderate than many, he was yet arrested for having taken part with Henry Hunt and others in the great meeting on St. Peter's Fields, Aug. 1, 1819, the day of Peterloo. He was arrested on a charge of high treason and sent to Lancaster Castle, was liberated on bail, and was tried at York on March, 1820. Was required to enter into recognisances to keep the peace and be of good behaviour for six months. In the following April he was called to the Court of Kings Bench and sentenced to twelve months' imprisonment in Lincoln gaol, walking all the way from Lancashire to London to receive this punishment. About 1826 he became correspondent to a London newspaper, and incurred some dislike of his fellows, which was intensified when during the Chartist agitation he was sworn as special constable. About 1851 he was procured the post of a messenger in Somerset House, but after a few years of this he gave it up and returned to his native home and old trade. He died at Harpurhey, Lancashire, April 13, 1872. His 'Passages in the Life of a Radical,' and 'An Account of the Arrest and Imprisonment on Suspicion of High Treason,' make one wonder what cause he had to remain always a moral force man. His name will be seen on the face of the Reformer's Memorial in Kensal Green Cemetery.—T. S.

**Abraham Lincoln.**—The 16th President of the United States. Born in Larue County, Kentucky, February 12, 1809; died April 15, 1865. Farm-boy, hired hand on a flat-boat, store clerk, commander of a company of volunteers in the Black Hawk war, postmaster, and member of the State legislature. After going through these, he opened office as a lawyer at Springfield in 1837, and was soon a prominent Whig leader. Member of Congress from 1847 to 1849, he voted for the reception of anti-slavery memorial and opposed the annexation of Texas. In 1860 was elected President. Then followed secession and the war, during which his tremendous power of work and real organising faculty helped the Northern cause no little. His emancipation proclamation took effect January 1, 1863. Re-elected President in 1864. On April 14, 1864, while sitting with his family in his box at the theatre, he was shot by John Wilkes Booth, a violent Secessionist. He lived for some hours after the shooting.—S.

## THE SOCIALIST LEAGUE.

OFFICES: 13 FARRINGTON ROAD, E.C.

The Council will meet on Monday next, April 9th, 7.45 sharp.

**London Members.**—The London Members' Meeting will be held on Monday next, April 9th.

**Branch Subscriptions Paid.**—1887: Hastings, Nottingham, Pelsall—None. Bradford, Croydon, Glasgow, Ipswich, Leeds, Merton, North London, Norwich—to end of March. Edinburgh—to end of May. Mitcham—to end of July. Walsall—to end of August. Hull—to end of September. Bloomsbury, Waltham Green, Wednesday—to end of October. Mile end, Oxford—to end of December.—1888: Marylebone—to end of January. Clerkenwell, Hammersmith, Leicester—to end of February. Acton, Hackney, Hoxton (L. E. L.)—to end of March.

## REPORTS.

**CLERKENWELL.**—On Wednesday, March 23, H. H. Sparling lectured on "The Last Revolution." Good discussion. On Sunday, April 1, a very pleasant "social" evening was spent by members and friends.—B.

**MERTON AND MITCHAM.**—On Sunday morning, Eden spoke on Fair Green, and meetings here will be held every Sunday in future, weather permitting. The previous Monday a meeting at Mitcham Board Schools was addressed by Mr. Bidder, Q. C., against Socialism. Turner, Sparling, and Kitz opposed him.—E.

**BIRMINGHAM.**—On Tuesday evening an interesting lecture was delivered by J. Sketchley on "The Commune of Paris, its origin, history, and objects."

GLASGOW.—On Thursday, our comrade the Rev. John Glasse, of Edinburgh, addressed the Co-operators of the Cowcadden district on "Socialism in its Relation to Co-operation." On Sunday, at Paisley Road, Toll, a very fine meeting was addressed by Glasier. This is one of the finest stations we have hit upon, the people of the district evidently regarding our meeting as an institution; their friendly demeanour, and the close attention they give to our speakers, being very encouraging. It is to be regretted, however, that nothing like full advantage is taken of this, and in order to do so our comrades should understand that their presence is absolutely required. In the evening another good meeting at Infirmary Square was addressed by Glasier.—D.

NORWICH.—Meeting held Good Friday in Market Place notwithstanding rain. On Sunday morning meeting held at St. Faith's, good audience; in Market much larger meeting than usual, a telegram from Manly was read stating he was unwell and could not come; Mowbray carried on the meeting. In evening meeting held in Market Place, and in Gordon Hall Mowbray lectured, Ashley in chair. Meetings also held on Monday, Bank Holiday.—S.

WALSALL.—Last Monday, Sanders concluded the debate on Socialism, and easily disposed of the little opposition that was offered. On Saturday he addressed a good audience on The Bridge, an attentive hearing being given him and apparently a good impression made.—J. T. D.

EDINBURGH.—On Thursday the 29th ult., instead of usual meeting for reading and discussion, we had a social meeting, which was well attended. Part of evening was spent in discussing subjects of deep interest to Socialists, methods of propaganda, etc. Singing of revolutionary songs, as well as Scotch ones, helped also to pass the time pleasantly. Wm. Morris was present.

EAST-END CLUB.—The Easter Monday concert came off with tolerable success, although the weather was wet and a number of expected performers did not put in an appearance. Those who have taken tickets are requested to send in returns as soon as possible.

THE STRIKE FUND.—The second of a series of entertainments took place on Saturday evening in the hall of the Socialist League. A very enjoyable evening was spent. Don't forget next Saturday, when there will be a special programme.

LECTURE DIARY.

LONDON.

- Acton.—17 High Street, Acton, W. (adjoining Purnell's Dining Rooms). Sunday at 8 p.m.
- Bloomsbury.—Communist Club, 49 Tottenham Street, Tottenham Court Road. Thursday April 5, at 8.30, Mark Manly will lecture on "The Unity of Socialists."
- Clerkenwell.—Hall of the Socialist League, 13 Farringdon Rd., E.C. Business meeting every Sunday at 7.
- Fulham.—8 Effie Road, Walham Green. Sunday at 8.
- Hackney.—28 Percy Terrace, Victoria Road, Hackney Wick. A general meeting of members will be held at the International Club, 40 Berner Street, Commercial Road, E., Monday next, April 9th, at 8.45 p.m. All members are requested to attend.
- Hammersmith.—Kelmscott House, Upper Mall, W. Sunday April 8, at 8. John Burns (S.D.F.), "Six Weeks in Pentonville." 15th Wm. Morris, "Industry in the Fourteenth Century."
- Hoxton (L.E.L.).—New premises, 1 Hoxton Square. C. J. Young, 8 Dunloe St., Hackney Rd., Secretary.
- Mitcham.—Corner of Merton Lane and Fountain Place. Club Room open Saturday, Sunday, and Monday evenings from 7.30 till 11. W. E. Eden, 12 Palmerston Road, Wimbledon, Secretary.
- Mile-end and Bethnal Green.—95 Boston St., Hackney Road. Business Meeting every Thursday at 9 p.m. Debating Class for members after Business Meeting.

PROVINCES.

- Aberdeen (Scottish Section).—Sunday night meetings in Baker Street Hall, at 6. Secretary, J. Leatham, 15 St. Nicholas Street.
- Birmingham.—Summer Row Coffee House, Tuesday April 10, J. Sketchley will lecture on "Socialism and Anarchism," 8 p.m.
- Bradford.—Morris's Dining Rooms, 114 City Road. Wednesdays, at 8.
- Carnoustie (Scottish Section: Forfarshire).—Meeting every Tuesday, at 8 p.m., in the Carnoustie Restaurant. H. McCluskey, Millar Street, Secy.
- Cowdenbeath (Scot. Sect.).—J. Duncan, 30 Arthur Pl., sec 2nd.
- Dublin.—Saturday Club, Central Lecture Hall, 12 Westmorland Street.
- Dundee (Scot. Sect.).—Meetings every Sunday in the Trades Hall, opposite Tay Bridge Station.
- Edinburgh (Scottish Section).—4 Park Street. Every Thursday at 8, class for study of Marx's 'Capital.'
- Galashiels (Scot Sect.).—J. Walker, 6 Victoria St., sec.
- Gallatow and Dysart (Scottish Section: Fife).—Meet every Tuesday at 7 p.m. in Gallatow Public School. Secretary, A. Paterson, 152 Rosslyn St.
- Glasgow.—84 John St. Reading-room open 10 a.m. till 10 p.m. daily. Discussion Class, Thursdays at 8.
- Leeds.—Lady Lane. Open every evening. Business meeting Fridays at 8. Address all communications to T. Paylor, 11 Sheldon Street, Holbeck, Leeds.

- Leicester.—Hosiery Union, Horsefair St. Fridays at 8.
- Lochgelly (Scottish Section: Fife).—Secs. (pro tem.), John Greig and Hugh Conway, The Square.
- Norwich.—Monday next, 8 p.m., entertainment by Minstrel Troupe in the Gordon Hall. Tuesday at 8.30, Members meeting. Wednesday at 8.30, Ways and Means Committee. Thursday at 8, Band practice and Troupe rehearsal. Friday at 8.30, Literary Committee. Saturday, open from 8 till 10.30. Sunday, at 8, lecture.
- Nottingham.—Club and Reading Rooms, 1 Tokenhouse Yard, Bridlesmith Gate, open every evening. Lectures and Discussions every Sunday.
- Oxford.—Temperance Hall, 25½ Pembroke Street. Wednesdays, at 8.30 p.m.
- Walsall.—Lecture Room, back of Temperance Hall. Mondays at 8 p.m.
- West Calder (Scottish Section).—Sec., Robert Lindsay, West Calder.

OPEN-AIR PROPAGANDA.

LONDON—Sunday 8.

- 11 ...Acton—the Steyne .....Day
- 11 ...Turnham Green—Front Common...Ham'smith
- 11.30...Hoxton Church, Pitfield St. ....Pope & Davis
- 11.30...Merton—Haydons Road.....The Branch
- 11.30...Mitcham Fair Green .....Kitz & Eden
- 11.30...Regent's Park .....Cantwell
- 11.30...St. Pancras Arches .....Dalziel
- 11.30...Walham Green .....Turner
- 3 ...Victoria Park .....Davis & Mainwaring
- 3.30...Hyde Park .....Parker
- 7 ...Acton—Priory .....Acton Branch
- 7.30...Stamford Hill.....Morgan & Parker

PROVINCES.

- Norwich.—Sunday: Ber Street Fountain at 11.45; Market Place at 3 and 7.30.
- Glasgow.—Sunday: Paisley Road Toll at 5 o'clock; Infirmary Square at 6.30.

The Strike Fund.—Entertainments will be given on Saturday evenings in the Hall of the League, at 8 p.m., in aid of the above Fund. Friends wishing to assist with songs, recitations, instrumental music, etc., should at once communicate with W. B. Parker, at office of League. Third Entertainment, April 7.

SOCIALIST CO-OPERATIVE FEDERATION.—Meeting at Commonwealth Office, 13 Farringdon Road, on Sunday April 8, at 3.30 p.m.

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And at all Branch Meeting-Places and Outdoor-Stations of the Socialist League.

[We publish this very incomplete list in the hope that friends will make it their business to supply us with fuller details. Newsagents not included here are requested to supply their names for publication.]

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