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[WEEKLY; ONE PENNY.]

THE TAILORS' STRIKE.

AN ADDRESS

TO THE WORKERS IN THE TAILORING TRADE.

FELLOW WORKERS.—The history of society in the past is the history of class struggles. Masters and slaves, patricians and plebians, nobles and serfs, capitalists and workmen, in short, oppressors and oppressed, have always stood in direct opposition to each other. The struggle between them has sometimes been open, sometimes concealed, but always continuous; a never ceasing struggle which has invariably ended, either in a revolutionary alteration of the social system, or in the common destruction of the contending classes. In earlier historical epochs we find almost everywhere a minute division of society into classes or castes—a variety of grades in social life. This holds good even at the present time, and in no trade are there more divisions or castes than in the Tailoring. The whole of the trade in England, Ireland, and Scotland, has been in a state of anxiety during the last week to see how the Tailors of London would get on this time. Twenty-four years ago an attempt was made to better the condition of the West End Tailors of London; that attempt was a failure owing to the want of an intelligent solidarity amongst those engaged in the trade. No attempt has since been made until the recent strike fever appeared among us, and possibly none would have been made, only that circumstances forced you to take action. You are, however, once more plunged (openly) into the never ending war between masters and men, and for what? (1) Healthy Workshops, (2) Abolition of Partnerships and a Uniform Time Log, the concession of which will not bring you one bit nearer your freedom, and it is very doubtful if it will be of much advantage to you when you have got it. However, let us analyse this demand.

Healthy Workshops. This demand is good, but I am afraid, however, that the result of the strike, so far as this point is concerned, will be—in cases where masters will have to get new or larger premises—to drive the trade into the hands of the outdoor workers and put a premium on sweating, intensifying rather than bettering the conditions of the trade. Better workshops by all means, but this, in order to be a genuine success, ought to apply to the *whole trade*, and there are thousands of employers who have no workshops whatever, the whole of their trade being done outside. This point can only, and I am afraid will only benefit the aristocrats of labour, in other words the first class tailors, leaving the second and third class to look after themselves. This is a line of policy which in the end will react in a serious manner upon the first class hands, and that possibly not before long. The second point, the abolition of partnerships, will, to my mind, prove of the utmost advantage to the outdoor workers, the sweater in particular, especially where work is wanted in a hurry, however, this again only concerns a very small section of the trade, and does not touch the great bulk of the workers at all.

The third point, a uniform time log, is no doubt of the utmost advantage to you as a small conservative body of aristocratic workers, but even if you win this think you that you have weakened the capitalists' power? no, you have simply gained an advantage at the expense of another body of workers. However, all this is simply to draw your attention to the great battle which is forever going on in our midst, and whilst heartily wishing you every success in your struggle, I think it would have been much more to the advantage, not only of the trade, but of the workers in general, if a bolder attitude had been adopted. If a larger demand had been made I feel positive more good would have been done than is at present likely to follow from this strike, even though victory be achieved. I have heard it said over and over again, that no one thought the "foreigners" would turn out as they have done, there is still the impression that the loss of the strike twenty-four years ago was due to the action of the "foreigners;" if this was true—and I know it was not—the action of the foreigners to-day ought to be an example to the British tailors. And why have the "foreigners" turned out in this manner? Do you think it is merely for the three points of your demands? No, it is not, it is to prove that they have a desire for the benefit of the human race, to bring about the *Inter-*

national Solidarity of Labour. The Jews in the East End, the Germans, French, Swedes, and others in the West-end, are all a proof of the fact that the English, Irish, and Scotch tailors have nothing to fear but everything to gain by making larger demands than those which at present are being made. Depend upon it, fellow-workers, that if this strike is allowed to end without a betterment of the condition of the second and third class tailors, it will not be long before you will have to strike against sweating, and then, perhaps, you may not have that support which you have to-day from all sections of the trade. The feeling twenty-four years ago was against the "foreigner," for not helping you, and the feeling against the "foreigner" to-day is because he is helping you, and demanding more than you are prepared to demand. Hitherto, you have put down your present condition to the evil of foreign competition, and when that competition is removed, then you say that the foreigner will frighten the masters by demanding too much; this is the greatest folly imaginable, and shows a great want of knowledge on historical and economical facts.

The reason that the spirit of solidarity is shown as we see it to-day, is owing to the growth of Socialism and Anarchist Communism in our midst, and I cannot understand the feeling of a large section of English tailors who dread the appearance of an Anarchist or Communist among them. However, time is on the side of truth, and truth in the end will prevail, and what is the truth in this case, does it need repeating, if it does, it is this:—That strikes are useless unless for some greater object than a mere betterment of the condition of one body of workmen at the expense of another. *Labour being the source of all wealth*, it stands to reason that the capitalist and landlord will not suffer even if you get all your demands, but will simply give *you* a benefit at the expense of the *other* worker whom they exploit; that this struggle in which you are engaged to-day is simply a passing phase of the labour struggle, and can only end when Labour shall claim its own, and the system of capitalism is for ever abolished. You may say this will take time, well to us that does not matter, it is truth, and whilst we are willing to take every advantage we can of the capitalist to-day, yet we can never lose sight of the main object we have in view, and that is, not merely that we may have healthy workshops so as to be healthier slaves, but that we shall strive to bring about a better life by spreading a knowledge of what might be if the workers would but pay as much attention to their own welfare as to the latest betting, etc. Work for all who can work, leisure for all, food for all, that instead of remaining in classes and sections of workers as we are to-day, breeding and fostering class distinctions and racial hatreds, let us unite for the overthrow of the system which injures us all so much, recognising that our motto should be in the interests of the human race. From each according to his ability, to each according to his needs, that instead of fighting against the natural incapacity of some workmen by abolishing merely working partnerships, we will strive for the abolition of the idlers who live on our labour to-day, *i.e.*, the landlord and capitalist, the middleman and sweater, and all who perform no useful work whatever, by abolishing private property in the means of life and by striving for the union and association of all the workers of all countries. We disdain to conceal our opinions, we are Communists, and we openly declare that our object can only be reached by the forcible overthrow of all existing social arrangements. Away with authority and monopoly, free access to the means of life. But this would mean a complete social revolution, the first step towards which is a General Strike of the trade for better conditions for ALL.

C. W. MOWBRAY.

THE BEAST OF PROPERTY

By JOHN MOST.

"AMONG beasts of prey, man is certainly the worst." This expression, very commonly made now-a-days, is only relatively true. Not man as such, but man in connection with wealth is a beast of prey. The richer a man, the greater his greed for more. We may call this monster the *beast of property*; it now rules the world, makes mankind miserable, and gains in cruelty and voracity with the progress of our so-called

civilisation. This monster we will in the following characterize and recommend to extermination. Look about you! In every so-called *civilised* country there are among every hundred men about ninety-five more or less destitute, and about five money-bags.

It is unnecessary to trace all the sneaking ways by which the latter have gained their possessions. The fact that they own ALL, while the others exist, or rather vegetate merely, admits of no doubt that these few have grown rich at the cost of the many. Either by direct brute force, by cunning, or by fraud, this horde has from time to time seized the soil with all its wealth. The laws of inheritance and entail, and the changing of hands have lent a *venerable* colour to this robbery, and consequently mystified and erased the true character of such actions. For this reason the *beast of property* is not yet fully recognised, but is, on the contrary, worshipped with a holy awe.

And yet, all who do not belong to this class are its victims. Every offspring of a non-possessor (poor man) finds every nook and corner of the earth occupied at his entrance into the world. There is nothing which is *lordless*. Without labour nothing is produced; and in order to labour, there are required not only ability and will, but also room to work, tools, raw materials, and means of sustenance. The poor man must, by force of necessity, apply to those who possess these things in plenty. And, behold! the rich give him permission to continue his existence. But in return for this he must divest himself of his skill and power. These qualities henceforth his pretended *saviours* use for themselves. They place him under the yoke of labour—they force him to the utmost of his mental and physical abilities to produce new treasures, which, however, he is not entitled to own. Should he desire to deliberate long before making so unequal a contract, his growling stomach will soon convince him that the poor man has no time for that, for there are millions in the same position as himself, and if he will risk that, while deliberating, hundreds of others will apply—his chance is gone and he again be at the mercy of the world.

It is the lash of hunger which compels the poor man to submit. In order to live he MUST SELL—"VOLUNTARILY" SELL—HIMSELF every day and hour to the *beast of property*.

The bygone times, when the *ruling* classes, on their slave-hunting raids, threw their victims in chains and forced them to work, of which the rulers had all the benefit—the times when Christian-Germanic robbers stole entire countries, deprived the inhabitants of the soil, and pressed them to feudal service, were indeed terrible enough; but the climax of infamy has been reached by our present *law and order* system, for it has defrauded more than nine-tenths of mankind of their means of existence, reduced them to dependence upon an insignificant minority, and condemned them to self-sacrifice. At the same time it has so disguised this relation with all sorts of jugglery, that the thralls of to-day—the wage slaves—but partially recognise their serfdom and outlawed position, they rather incline to ascribe it to the caprices of fortune.

To perpetuate this state of affairs is the only aim of the propertied classes. Though not always united amongst themselves—one seeking to gain advantage over the other by tricks of trade, cunning in speculation and divers machinations of competition—yet in opposition to the proletariat they stand in one united hostile phalanx. If the poor man, who is momentarily unable to sell himself to an exploiter of labour, or is already flayed to complete helplessness by the *beast of property*, has recourse to begging—then the gluttonous bourgeois terms it vagrancy, and calls for police; he demands pillory and prison for the poor devil who refuses to starve between mountains of food. Should the unemployed apply a little of the much-vaunted self-help, that is, should he do in a small way what the rich do daily with impunity on a grand scale, should he, in fact, steal, in order to live, the bourgeoisie will heap burning coals of *moral indignation* upon his head, and, with austere visage, hand him over relentlessly in charge of the state, that in its prisons he may be fleeced the more effectively, *i.e.* more cheaply.

When the workers combine in order to obtain better wages, shorten the hours of labour, or similar advantages, the money-bags immediately decry it as *conspiracy*, which must be prevented.

When the workers organise politically, it is denounced as resistance to the *divine* order of things, which must be nullified by laws of exception or discrimination.

Should the people finally contemplate rebellion, an unceasing howl of rage raised by the *gold tigers* will be heard throughout the world—they pant for massacres and their thirst for blood is insatiable. The life of the poor is valued as nothing by the rich man. As the owner of vessels, he places the lives of entire crews in jeopardy, when his object is to fraudulently obtain high insurance for half decayed hulks. Bad ventilation, deep excavation, defective supports, &c., annually bring death to thousands of miners, but this system of operation saves expenses, therefore augments the gains, and gives the mine owner no occasion to be sorry. Neither does the factory pasha care how many of *his* labourers are torn and rent apart by machinery, poisoned by chemicals, or slowly suffocated by dirt and dust. Profit is the main thing.

Women are cheaper than men: for this reason the capitalistic vampires, with insatiate rapacity, seek their blood. Besides, female labour procures them cheap mistresses.

Child flesh is the cheapest; what wonder, then, that the cannibals of modern society continually feast upon juvenile victims? What care they that the poor little ones are thereby bodily crippled and mentally ruined for life—that thousands of them, miserable and worn out at a tender age, sink into their graves? Stocks rise; that suffices.

As the bourgeoisie, by means of its capital, completely monopolizes all new inventions—every new machine—instead of shortening the

hours of labour and enhancing the prosperity and happiness of ALL, causes, on the contrary, dismissal from employment for some, reduction of wages for others, and an increased and intensified state of misery for the entire proletariat. When increase of production is accompanied by an augmented pauperization of the masses, consumption must simultaneously decrease; stagnation and crisis must ensue. A superabundance of actual wealth in the hands of the few must create hunger, typhus, and other epidemics among the many. The injustice—yes, the idiocy—of this state of affairs is evident. The money-bags, of course, merely shrug their shoulders. This they will continue to do until a rope well tied over their shoulders will prevent all further struggling.

The worker is not only fleeced in manifold ways as producer, but also as consumer. Numberless parasites seek to despoil him of his paltry income. After products have passed through various exchanges and storage, and their prices been raised by jobbers' and brokers' profits, by taxes and custom house duties, they, finally reach the retailers, whose customers are almost exclusively the proletarians. The wholesalers *make* (that is, fraudulently obtain) perhaps 10 to 20 per cent. profit by their transactions; the retailer is dissatisfied with less than 100 per cent. He makes use of all tricks for securing this result, especially the most shameless adulteration of food. In close relationship to these swindlers are the numberless poisoners and adulterators of beer, liquors, wine, etc., who render the streets in all our great cities and industrial centres unsafe with their nefarious traffic. Then there are the tenement-lords, who ceaselessly seek means to embitter the existence of the poor. The condition of the rooms become steadily worse, the rents higher, and the contracts more galling. The workers are crowded together more and more into rear houses, attics, and cellar-holes full of vermin, damp and musty. Prison cells are frequently far healthier than these pest-holes.

When the worker is out of employment, he is again at the mercy of a horde of speculators in hunger, who are ready to pounce on him in order to complete his ruin. Pawnbrokers and others of similar ilk advance small sums at high interest on the last possessions of the poor. Their contracts are usually so arranged that they can hardly be kept; the pawned objects forfeited, and the poor wretch takes another downward step. The cut-throats, however, amass fortunes in a short time. The beggar is looked upon as quite a well-paying figure by certain sharks. Every copper which he has gathered in his unenviable way arouses the covetousness of the keeper of dirty holes and vile dens. Even thieves are subject to this capitalistic spoliation. They are the slaves of crafty concealers and *fences*, who receive their stolen goods for a song. Yes! even those unfortunate women, whom the present accursed system has driven to prostitution, are shamelessly plundered by keepers of brothels and houses of ill-fame.

This is the lot of the poor from the cradle to the grave. Whether he produces or consumes, whether he exists or merely vegetates, he is always surrounded by ravenous vampires who thirst for his last drop of blood. On the other hand, the rich man never stops his work of exploiting, though he may be utterly unable to assign a reason for his greed. He that has £200,000 would have £1,000,000; he that has £1,000,000 would have 10,000,000. The greed for wealth is closely associated with the greed for power. Wealth is not only a generator of more wealth, it is also a political power. Under the present capitalistic system venality is an all-pervading vice. It is, as a rule, a mere matter of price, which will buy over those who may be of service either by speech or silence, by the pen or by the press, by acts of violence or any other means, to the *beast of property*, which by its golden dictates is the absolute, almighty divinity.

(To be continued.)

NOTES.

THE attitude of the police towards the Tailors on strike, proves that the "bullies in blue" do not look with benevolent neutrality upon the later developments of the Labour movement. How different their attitude towards the procession that marched through Oxford Street last week, and which they threatened to break up, because they accused it of obstructing the traffic, compared with the mild amiability with which they saw the traffic obstructed day after day in the busiest streets of the city by the processions of the revolted dockers. But why this change of attitude? Did the presence of a "dangerous Anarchist" in the person of our comrade Mowbray have anything to do with it?

It is also worth noting, that when Mowbray attempted to hold a meeting in Broad Street, Soho, the police at once interfered upon the same stale pretext, and drove our friends by force from the spot. Yet there is less traffic in Broad Street than upon Tower Hill, where immense meetings were held during the Great Strike. It is therefore clear that the presence of Anarchists in popular movements will always insure plenty of police persecution. Should not this prove plainly to the workers that the Anarchists are the only people whom the authorities really look upon as "dangerous," and that while the ordinary labour reformer, especially if he praises the "good intentions" of the government in granting Royal Commissions to inquire into grievances of Labour, and is a fervent advocate of a "Legal" Eight Hour Day, can always count upon good treatment. We Anarchists who are "dangerous" must be hunted down like wild beasts by hired bullies who administer the "law."

We take the persecution as a compliment. The more we are hunted and harried by the propertied classes and their hirelings, the more certain it is we are on the right path. Persecution is the highest honour that the rich can bestow upon us, and even if we suffer blows, and imprisonment, what is it compared with the tortures inflicted upon those who have fought the battles of the people in all ages, and who yielded willingly their lives for the Cause. We know that to speak the truth will not bring us applause and honours, and that if we seek for justice, we must be prepared to suffer insult and injury from the rich and powerful.

Some of the leaders of the New Unionism have found a fresh remedy for the ills of humanity.—“A State Board of Arbitration should be formed consisting of six members chosen by the workers themselves, and six by the masters, and after all efforts for the termination of the dispute had been unsuccessful, the matter should be referred to the board.” We quote from a recent speech by Mr. Tom Mann, and we suppose from the speeches of other trade unionists that this is the grand result which is to be expected from the labours of the Royal Labour Commission. At present the idea does not seem to be a popular one, even a moderate man like Mr. Pickard, M.P., denouncing it in strong language. It is a further extension of the principal of fixing wages and other conditions of labour by State regulation, and as Anarchists we are bound to protest against it, feeling sure that it would simply mean a fresh extension of the tyranny of the State. Let us give an example. Supposing this State Arbitration Board decides in a certain dispute that men shall agree to certain terms, and the men refuse to accept this decision, as they have done several times recently, for instance, in the Railway Strike in South Wales, and at the colliery disputes in Silkworth and Durham, to agree to the terms accepted by their delegates. Will the State proceed to enforce the decision of their Arbitration Board upon the men by fine or imprisonment? If so, we can understand how this institution would be very useful to the workers by promoting a social revolution, for we believe that such tyranny would provoke even the English wage-slave to revolt. If not we cannot see how the institution would differ from an ordinary Board of Conciliation, and would no doubt enjoy an equal success among decisions favourable to the masters. It being a notorious fact that the leaders of the men on these boards always seem more eager to please the capitalist than the men. Perhaps this is the reason that despite every effort at puffing these institutions by some labour leaders and a section of the capitalist press, which profess to be very friendly to labour, the idea has now been received with much rapture by the workers.

But we can only express our sorrow that Mr. Tom Mann, who knows as well as we do, that the just discontent which now justly fills the heart of the workmen cannot be appeased by such “pills to cure an earthquake,” as Royal Commissions or State Boards of Arbitration, should warmly advocate these miserable shams, as if he had a most fervent belief in them. Cannot he see that these schemes can only succeed by cheating and befooling the workers by making them content with their slavery and misery. Cannot he see that he is playing the game of the capitalists quite as much as the sky pilots, who cry “Peace, peace,” when there is no peace.

It is folly, and worse than folly, to talk of reconciling capital and labour, or to advocate schemes which can only have this for their object. Till the capitalist classes are “reconciled” off the face of the earth, the war between capital and labour must go on, and can only end in either the destruction of capitalism or the extermination of the workers. Then why not speak the truth and tell the people they must trust in themselves, and not in Royal Commissions or State Boards of Arbitration to rid themselves of capitalist tyranny. N.

In dear old grandmother Reynolds, W. M. Thompson has been giving his idea of the way in which the Change is to come. I prefer the sketch in “News from Nowhere.” Thompson apparently believes in secret societies, strange oaths, privy committees, implicit obedience to leaders, mandates, and all the worn-out stage-trappings of bygone folly. On the morrow of the Revolution, there is to be a Revolutionary Government which is to “work reforms slowly and cautiously,” and to become the landlord of West End mansions. Money, seemingly, is to continue to exist. Above all, of course, there is to be “discipline,” “pillage” is to be “sternly repressed,” and “wilful damage” “punished.” When the real Revolution comes, it will be needful to “sternly repress” reactionists who attempt to put such notions as these into practice. Not in such fashion will men gain freedom. R. W. B.

THE MASSACRE AT FOURMIES.

This is a town near the frontier of Belgium having 15,000 inhabitants and 40 scattered factories for carding and spinning wool. There were several partial strikes going on, and on the eve of May 1st, the Municipality, composed of employers, had made application for troops, and the employers had signed a collective notice in which they set forth their union and declared their intention to discharge all those who did not work on the First of May.

This enraged the workmen. During the morning of Friday some

demonstrators prevented one of the factories from beginning work; a scuffle with the police ensued, in which Lieutenant Julien received a wound in the head which he remembered later. About twenty persons were arrested. Towards noon a battalion of the 145th line regiment arrived from Maubeuge under the command of Major Chapus.

About six o'clock the crowd in the streets gathered round the police station demanding the release of those arrested. The soldiers and police guarded the station approaches. Cries were vociferated, and the demonstrators became excited, stones being thrown. The Sub-Prefect appeared for an instant in consultation with Major Chapus, and then re-joined the Mayor and Public Prosecutor in the municipal building. At this moment a lieutenant forced himself into the crowd to arrest a demonstrator, who was *insulting* the army. The crowd closed on him and threw him down; a sergeant came to his help only to meet with the same treatment, as also with a police-sergeant. Major Chapus (some say it was Cacesier) called out three times “Retire, or you will be fired upon!” and before the crowd could fairly understand the situation, a section of the 145th charged with fixed bayonets, retired at the double, and then opened fire!

More than two hundred shots were fired, and the firing lasted several minutes while the square was emptying. It is certain the crowd had begun to disperse before the first shots, for out of twelve persons killed on the spot several were in the shops at the opposite end of the square. On the next day fourteen were found to have been killed. The list of wounded is frightful. Almost forty persons are maimed for life and will bear love of France's flag imprinted on them all their days. One girl, seventeen years of age, had six bullets in her thighs. Those slightly wounded are innumerable. Both killed and wounded show a minority of grown-up-men; a great number are under twenty. The above details of the fusillade are absolutely correct. Probably, after the fusillade, the officers wished to be certain that all the soldiers had fired by inspecting their cartridge-boxes. A soldier named Lebon who was found not to have fired, had to explain that his mother was in the crowd. The newspapers are full of pity for this case; for our part, it fills us with indignation that a man should have to justify himself for not firing on that heap of fugitives. By the Fourth of May troops from all quarters were poured by the governing classes into Fourmies, to the number of 3,000 men. *La Révolte.*

INTERNATIONAL NOTES.

AMERICA.

The *Labour World*, Boston, says,—“His eminence Cardinal Gibbons, the distinguished Roman Catholic Archbishop of Baltimore, discourses thus in an article in the *North American Review* for April:—

“The economic conditions in the United States are fast approaching those of England. The homes of the poor are more marked by destitution and squalor; the light of heaven is being closed out from miserable tenement, room, and attic; flesh and blood are becoming more cheap, and bread more dear; the well-being of the car horse is more solicitously watched than that of the driver. Small wonder that strong men, maddened by the tears of wife and cries of starving children, band themselves together, and sometimes resort to deeds of violence.

What have Emigration mongers to say to this? Hurry up and let us have your answer.

The daily press of the land, with few exceptions, denies wholesale the claims made by the labour press and the representatives of workingmen's organisations. But occasionally a capitalistic editor makes a slip of the pen and admits the truth unintentionally. No statements of the labour men have been more emphatically denied and ridiculed than that the vast army of enforced idlers is being enlarged, and the downward tendency of wages becoming more and more marked.

In a recent editorial opposing the “great influx of foreign paupers” the *New York Herald* thoughtlessly made use of the following language:—

“But things have changed during the last twenty years. There is now on the average a round million men, a vast army, constantly out of work. Competition has cut down the wages of the labourer and employment is uncertain.”

A million wage-slaves with a vote and unable to get bread. It will not be long before they cast the vote away and determine that it is better to fight than starve.

Bricklayers Union, No. 1, of Millwaukee, having 425 members, has withdrawn from the American Federation of Labour. The men now think they are able to take care of themselves and their affairs, and say that they do not propose to be told when to strike and when not by a lot of men who are simply interested in bolstering up the present system by playing only too often into the hands of the bosses. The spirit of Anarchism is abroad even here, and we may safely say we believe the workers have acted wisely in refusing to be wirepulled by a lot of boodle hunters. Our Trade Unionists in England would do well to teach their so-called leaders a lesson of the same kind. Shoe trade, please note.

The strike of the Union Marble Cutters in Chicago has become general. Over 400 are out. The men object to setting marble cut by convict labours. Funny, isn't it, that they cannot grasp the idea of striking against the system which makes convicts? It is foolish in the extreme to strike against an effect and allow the cause to remain.

Chicago *Freedom* says:—“The recent election did not result as our State Socialist friends hoped. The pre-election enthusiasm was great; they imported speakers, ran their speculative figures up into tens of thousands, reproached the Anarchists, and appealed to every radically disposed man to vote. Their vote was 2,352. Perhaps the quiet Anarchist thought insensibly pervading all reform ideas had something to do with it. The corruption and insufficiency of the ballot is too apparent. To vote ourselves rulers is to lovers of freedom too absurd to put any faith in. There was little or no Anarchistic thought when the Socialist vote was 12,000 in this city (Chicago), and for that reason we suppose they—the State Socialists—feel bitter towards us, believing themselves wilfully thwarted in saving the world. Not so, Anarchists are working for Universal equal rights, but they do not believe that to pander to the powers that make people slaves in the way to

free them." Perhaps this accounts for the bitterness of our own State Socialist friends in England towards the Anarchists who slowly but surely are destroying the voting idea in this country also.

Our comrade Lucy Parsons, in Chicago *Freedom*, May 1st, says,—
"About thirty years ago there were eleven millionaires in New York, and twenty in the whole country; to-day we have over a thousand millionaires in that city and over five millions in the United States. But then the number of paupers and one-dollar-day men has increased to over 12,000,000." So says the New York *Evening World*. Some reformers lift their hands in assumed holy horror, if a revolutionist says, "this system must be got rid of, even if it must be by forcible revolution." Why? Because of the destruction to life and property.

The life of the average wealth-producer has been reduced to such a level of misery that it is not worth having, and the best thing they can do with it is to sacrifice it on the altar of Social Revolution and prepare the way for liberty for future generations.

We can but reiterate her sentiments, and shout with one voice—Hurrah for Anarchy!

AUSTRALIA.

Among the scores of wires relating to strike matters in Queensland and other Australian colonies, I note the following, as showing how the revolutionary fire is burning in this quarter of the globe.

Blackall, March 31st. Mounted infantry here, howling drunk last night. Our men quiet but firm.—W. Kewley, Sec. G. S. U.

Strange, isn't it, that "our noble defenders," are generally made drunk for the purpose of carrying out their "bloody" work. They may get drunk shortly with a wine they will not relish.

Berclairine, March 25th.—Strike Committee and Blackwell arrested this morning; places filled immediately. Everything quiet.—J. Moore.

The hirelings of the propertied classes will stop at nothing to attain their object, i.e., defeating the workers, and other means than passive resistance must be used in order to persuade capitalists that workmen are in earnest. However, though they may be quiet, once let the above howling drunken mob of "our noble defenders," fire a shot, and we may safely trust to the manhood of the strikers asserting itself in their own defence.

Maryborough.—The District Council advises all Trades Unionists and sympathisers to resign from the Defence Force.

Signed, EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.

Good! We wonder, however, when the Trades Unionists of England will lose their flunkeyism and advise the resignation of all their members from the Volunteers.

Listen to this!

"Unfortunately the papers lie so consumedly about these strikes that unless you are in the thick of them, you do not know what to believe."

The above is not a quotation from last week's *Worker*, but from the *Courier's* London correspondent. And they lie harder in Brisbane than they ever did in the old country.

Something strange for the capitalist press to lie, isn't it? It is time workmen swore off reading capitalist papers and took more to supporting their own journals. Workmen's papers have no need to lie on the Labour Question.

The Brisbane *Worker* says:—"Delegate Jack Meehan, of the Central District, writes from Wagga, N.S.W., where he had just had a most enthusiastic meeting re the bush trouble: "I see that George is snapped with thirteen more, and later that the Strike Committee are also visiting the Queen's Hotel. Not too bad in our free and glorious Australia! I am sure that such a just and paternal Government have also arrested the employers' secretary and committee, as what is sauce for the goose ought to be sauce for the gander. But I had better not say any more, or if any of our capitalist governmental toadies read this they will cry out about sedition, or another important seizure of valuable information of a horrible outrage to be committed—a man talking about *geese*. . . . I will come back soon if things do not alter. If all the chaps are going to be locked up, I am not going to be out of it."

Millwraith talks about "big, hot words." The following are some of those that exude from a single *Telegraph* leader:—

"Disorder, insurrection, criminal outrages, culprits, conclave, usurp, junto, agitators, organisers, crusade, robbery, confiscation, sedition, disloyalty, incendiarism, spoliation, propagandism of blackmail, plunder, rapine, vapouring, blustering, effrontery, audacity, contumacy, treason, agitators-cum-organisers, delegates-cum-secretaries, socialistic plunderers, beneficial, malign, revolt, violence, rowdies, wreck, ruin, campaign of compulsion, coercion, defiance, socialistic unionism, ignorant zeal, inflamed communism and revolutionism, dupes, criminals, disorder, devastation, discontent, envy, malice, revenge, angry, resentful, railing injustice, thread-bare lies, malign sentiment, mendacity, shameless misrepresentation, unblinking incitement to disaffection and revolution, sophistry, cajolery, Ishmaelite, seditious libels, stirring prejudices, inflaming passions, imaginative grievances, fictitious wrongs, inflated sophistry." Whirro-o-o!!!

It is evident from the above that ex-parson Brentnall is serving his Lord and Master again—according to his lights. They are the identical words which the chief-priests used when they sooled the multitude on to prefer Barrabas.

Those who think of emigrating to Australia had better pause. For here is the truth, a truth which no persecution can suppress and no combination of Capitalism overthrow, that those who control the means of living control those others who must live. No man is free excepting the man who has the power to work without asking leave of another; no man but the citizen of the community which insures work to its citizens as a right.

We take the following from an interview with a correspondent of the *Australian Workman* with Jack Meehan:—

"The majority, then, of the workers in Queensland are Socialists?"

"Yes, the bushmen especially, are all Socialists, and if only the whole of us had votes, and a general election took place shortly, you would find a great change in the composition of Parliament."

The workers here want a good Anarchist or two and the voting idea will soon disappear, especially as those who control the means of life control those others who must live; property votes, poverty cannot vote except on capitalist questions and under capitalist conditions. C. W. M.

BELGIUM.

As might have been expected, the Belgian partial strikes—betrayed as the strikers were at every step by the leaders, and the so-called "workmen's party"—have not brought on the Revolution. Nevertheless, even these partial strikes have thoroughly frightened the possessing classes, and caused them to make political concessions, which capitalists and proletarian

alike regard (mistakenly enough) as important. What then would not a real General Strike achieve? A General Strike which should not end until the Social Revolution was accomplished?

Of course the police in Belgium, as elsewhere, are behaving with their accustomed high-handed scorn for the rights of others—especially of Revolutionists. Belgium, as everyone knows, is a happy land of refuge for bankrupts, swindlers, even for murderers, but the line is drawn at Anarchists. Merlino, as we know, was expelled; Weill was expelled; and now our comrade Levezan has been expelled. Persons who cast aside patriotic prejudices, class interests and family affections to devote themselves absolutely to the workers cause are "not wanted" by the Flemish bourgeoisie.

FRANCE.

Elsewhere we give a detailed account of the Fourmies crime. A very well-known Marxist comrade, J. R. Clément, has been treated at Charleville by the "law-and-order" brigade in a manner which must excite the indignation of every honest man,—little as we sympathise with Marxist "leaders." He was returning with two or three hundred comrades in procession from the civil funeral of a child when the mourners were ordered to disperse by the police. Clément, with the extraordinary respect for authority characteristic of State Socialists, advised the others to obey this order,—advice which was immediately acted upon by the well-drilled Marxists. Thereupon, without more ado, the police captain at once arrested Clément! Troops were soon after marched into the town and encamped in the streets, to guard against a possible rescue. Next day, Clément (with a rapidity suggestive rather of a drumhead court-martial than of a serious trial) was brought before the local tribunal and sentenced to *two years imprisonment* and five years banishment from the department, upon a trumped-up charge of "insulting the magistracy!" Clément has since appealed and his sentence has been reduced to two months—it being doubtless felt that the Charleville judges had gone just a little too far. It seems, however, that when things come to the pinch, the capitalist cut-throats draw no fine distinctions between Parliamentarians and Revolutionists pure and simple. For the rest, sentences of imprisonment have rained upon comrades all over France.

POLAND.

The Socialist movement here is triumphing altogether (one is glad to hear) over the nationalist and patriotic crazes. Despite the "state of siege," Warsaw was loaded with Socialist proclamations on the First of May, and there were serious outbreaks in various parts of the city. There were over a hundred arrests. R. W. B.

— IMPORTANT NOTICE. —

We have had to struggle against exceptional difficulties since we started the weekly issue, and having had a succession of wet Sundays, during which, outdoor propaganda, for which we largely depend for the sale of our paper, has been impossible. The position is now so desperate that, unless we receive considerable subscriptions to the Guarantee Fund the "Commonweal" must cease with the present issue. If our friends will help us over the present crisis we believe that we may be able to carry on the "Commonweal" throughout the summer, if not the disappearance of the paper as a weekly is certain.

A SOCIAL GATHERING will be held at the *Commonweal* Club, 273, Hackney Road, on Thursday, June 4th, to welcome our young comrade, Charles Mowbray, on his release from the military prison at Colchester. Collection for propaganda.

In accordance with a resolution of the Jewish Anarchists of England and America, to hold an International Revolutionary Celebration, on May 30th, the International Working Men's Club, 40, Berner Street, Commercial Road, E., have arranged a Public Meeting, Concert, and Ball, on Saturday May 30th, to which all English comrades are invited. Admission by Ticket, Sixpence. All particulars will be duly advertised.

INTERNATIONAL SOCIALIST SCHOOL, Autonomie Club, 6, Windmill Street, Tottenham Court Road. Conducted by Louise Michel and A. Coulon, assisted by Mrs. Carr, B.A. of the Fabian Society. Free Education in English, French, and German. The Committee have now secured large and commodious premises in the neighbourhood of Tottenham Court Rd. Funds however are urgently needed, and subscriptions should be sent to A. Coulon, Secretary, 6, Windmill Street, Tottenham Court Road, W.C.

THE YOUNG ANARCHISTS. A new propaganda group has recently been formed to spread our principles among the young. The group meets every Wednesday at 8.30, at the Club Autonomie. All young men anxious to work for the Cause are invited to attend.

TO LET, for Trade Union Meetings, Lectures, &c., three nights a week, the Large Hall of the London Socialist League, 273, Hackney Road. For particulars apply to the Secretary.

JUST OUT. Labour's May Day, by Walter Crane, on fine toned paper, suitable for framing. Sent in cardboard protector, post free, 5d.

Comrades and Sympathisers can each do something to help the Cause, and those unable to help otherwise can subscribe to our Fund for the propagation of Anarchist Communism in the Army and Navy. Subscriptions addressed to the Secretary will be duly acknowledged in the *Commonweal*.