

THE COMMONWEAL

The Official Journal of the Socialist League.

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WEEKLY; ONE PENNY.

NOTES ON NEWS.

Our comrades of the *Sozial Demokrat* have received notice of expulsion from their asylum at Zurich, and will have to leave Switzerland. This attack on freedom by a bourgeois Republic is the sort of thing one expects in these days, but it may be ominous of something special in the welter of European politics, an indication that the huge tyranny of the German Empire is looking on a war as sensibly drawing near, and is putting its house in order, by a further attempt, which will certainly be as futile as the rest to stamp out the growing flame of Socialism.

Just as we are going to press we have received an interesting letter from a comrade on this subject, recounting the shabby pretenses of the Swiss Federal Government for this tyrannical act. Of course, as our comrade states, the Swiss Government is acting under pressure from the German Executive, and the immediate cause of the "energy" of the latter is revenge on the *Sozial Demokrat* for the defeat sustained by Bismark and Co. in the Reichstag, when the attempt was made to strengthen the laws against the Socialists; which to any other Government or potentate, ancient or modern, would seem strong enough as they are. In fact, this expulsion of our comrades is just a part of that forward move in repression.

We may well wonder what Balfour and his mates believe in their hearts will be the end of their Coercion adventure in Ireland, or to what lengths they are prepared to carry it. They must, at least, have a deep faith in the want of generosity of the English bourgeois, and the impossibility of shaming him into anything like manliness, or they would at any rate have made haste to alter the sentence of additional imprisonment passed on Mr. Blane for having the hardihood to appeal against his conviction. Such conduct is worthy of an ill-tempered pedagogue, and no one but a man who considers himself entirely irresponsible to anything but his own indigestion, would dare to act in such a manner outside the ranks of the English or American fool, the quintessence of all stupidity past or present.

Yet it is probable that the Balfourian snobs think that something will come about from the imprisonment of Blane and McFadden and the onslaught at Ennis, and other deeds of a like nature. What is the something which they hope for? Surely that they may at last irritate the Irish into some overt act of rebellion, so that Coercion and its dirty tricks may be justified in the eyes of British respectability. Really if this is so, and all the recent events point towards it, the game hardly seems worth the candle to a calm looker on. For what will Balfour do next—and next—and next? Of course he has not troubled his head about that.

As to Mr. Blane, however, perhaps the Irish authorities may know what they are about, and have laid hands on the right person. Some of us will remember our introduction to him at the tea whereat Graham and Burns were welcomed, and the speech he made on that occasion, in which he spoke like a Socialist and a thoroughly good fellow. No doubt he is a dangerous man, and the opportunity of keeping him under lock and key a few months longer is not lightly to be foregone. Meantime, after what we saw of him on that occasion, our sympathy with him must be of the strongest character.

The meeting summoned by the Metropolitan Radical Federation to consider the Trafalgar Square business will, at any rate, have one good effect, that no Radicals worthy of the name can look with anything but contempt on their "Liberal" representatives in London. Mr. Foote's defence of them in the letter which he wrote to the *Star* is as lame as anything could be; and the round-robin written to the meeting fully deserved the shouts of laughter with which it was greeted. Men who will snatch at such an excuse as Mr. Saunders's civil case will do anything in the way of excusing themselves. If Mr. Saunders gains his case he does not establish the right of meeting in the Square, but only settles under what quibble it is most convenient to forbid meeting. If he loses it, affairs are just in the same position as they are now.

We need not doubt that there is plenty of law to prevent us meet-

ing in the Square; or, indeed, anywhere else in the open-air. For the matter of that a very little ingenuity on the part of lawyers and judges would enable a government to forbid us meeting *indoors* either unless we say there what pleases our masters. There is still, for instance, an unrepealed law which forbids Sunday meetings in places unlicensed for public worship under penalties heavy enough "to make your flesh creep"; and it would be awkward, not to say impossible, for Socialist branches or Radical clubs to get their lecture-rooms licensed as chapels. We may be sure that neither this government nor any other will ever be seriously embarrassed by the laws. What ever is convenient for them to do in the way of keeping the people down they will do if the people lets them—if they dare.

The rights of property take shapes as curious and shifting as the wizard in the old tale. Here is a "common-sense" public horrified at Socialist propositions to meddle with the sacred thing, and invoking the eighth commandment of a tribe which, I think, in those days hardly held the same views about property as the modern bourgeois does. Here is the House of Commons, the judges, the lawyers, the magistrates, the police, the army and the navy all engaged in the holy task of safeguarding property, and yet the whole of this magnificent moral sense, the whole of this irresistible machinery, quite capable of spending a hundred pounds in mending sixpence beautifully, cannot get back for poor Mary Ryan *her* property, which has been "conveyed" from her by the police; though a magistrate (a not very tender conscientious species) gave her an order for it, the judges of a superior court found they were not strong enough to let her have it; and so hopeless is her case that questions have been asked about it in the House of Commons! Her sole remedy now is to bring an action against the police. What a night-mare of stupidity and injustice!

It is puzzling to some brains why Mr. Peters should have £300 as a result of Mr. Bradlaugh's assertion about Lord Salisbury's cheque. It is doubtful if the conundrum is worth much trouble to solve; since it is clear enough that the jury awarded that sum to him to avenge Lord Salisbury on Mr. Bradlaugh. I suppose precedent forbade their recommending from the box that Mr. Peters should offer halves to the Most Noble; but it may be hoped that Mr. Peters will see his way to making the marquis a handsome present out of his windfall: all the more as his lordship belongs to the necessitous class whom Mr. Peters supports politically—the landlords of Great Britain and Ireland. If that could be done, it would be a case of "all's well that ends well": Mr. Bradlaugh's fine paid by M.P.'s who can afford it; Mr. Peters happy; and Lord Salisbury content. W. M.

Events are moving in Roumania with such rapidity that the peasant revolt there will have been crushed, or a revolution carried out, before this number is in the hands of its readers. When the rising took place it was at first described as a mere local outbreak fomented by Russian money; but the flame spread, and village after village rose upon its oppressor, and proprietors had to fly for their lives from estate after estate. Large towns were taken, pitched battles fought, granaries pillaged, and extortionate officials tried and sentenced with rough justice. Day after day it was stated that the rising had subsided, and then that it had broken out again, and then that the territorial troops had fraternised with the people and fired on the regulars who were sent against them.

It is becoming increasingly clear that Russian money, or any other outside stimulus, has little to do in the affair; the movement is Socialist, says the *Pall Mall*, and there is no doubt that Socialists have something to do with it. But the reality of it is nothing more than a huge hunger-revolt—and nothing less. Meanwhile there seems to be no thought on the part of the rulers of Roumania of striking at the root of the evil, and there is most certainly none on the part of their outside advisers. The old "remedy" of repression is to be tried; "order" must be "restored" before anything is done; etc., etc.

But how such wicked proceedings as those of the Roumanians must be looked on with horror by the dear good Englishman, who when hit in the face turns round to be kicked, and sings psalms of loyalty and law-'n'-order while he is being plundered!

S.

The attitude of the Irish Party at the Mid-Lanark election is very unsatisfactory. They have advised the electors to go against the Labour candidate. This is a shabby return for the self-sacrifice of those English working-men who have gone to Ireland and suffered imprisonment for the Home Rule cause; and the lesson will not be lost on the thousands of workmen who have subscribed their pence for the same cause. The Irish party have talked a lot about their trust in the English democracy, and to a large extent they have gained its sympathy; their action in Mid-Lanark is not calculated in any way to retain it. We hope the election will show them that they cannot afford to insult the Labour party in this way.

F. H.

A NEEDED TALISMAN.

SIR,—Since the beginning of the present year I have passed through a series of remarkable events. To explain the cause of these events I must trouble you with a short account of my family history. In the days when the philosopher's stone was so eagerly sought after, my ancestors devoted their time and their estates—which latter were considerable—to the search. It is probable they were unsuccessful, as the only heirloom, for several generations, has been a small wooden box. When I received it about twenty years ago from my father the box was carefully sealed up, and bore upon it the directions that it was to be opened by the head of the family of Cliffords when the last three numerals in the date of the year were identical, or, as the inscription put it, when the "trinity of the century" arrived.

When I opened the box I found it contained a small black stone about the size and shape of an egg, and a bundle of manuscripts, many of which I am unable to read. These papers describe the wonderful effects this stone has produced when used by my ancestors in previous centuries. They also contain the "charm" or formula which is necessary to repeat before any effect is produced. On pronouncing this charm all present are unconsciously forced by it to speak the truth. Those who have not cultivated this virtue speak out boldly perhaps for the first time in their lives, while they smile on in happy ignorance, thinking they are still imposing their falsehoods upon us.

I have taken the following reports down in shorthand, but I may in transcribing have made some mistakes. If you think that probable, you are at liberty to alter; only pray do it carefully, as a most awful curse rests upon the person who changes "one jot or tittle" unnecessarily. Should they be printed (correctly) I intend to put your paper in the box at the end of the year (which will be "absolutely the last day" on which the charm will have its proper effect). I shall thus confer a boon on my successor in the year 1999; for your printed matter will be much more readable than the manuscripts I have had handed down to me. I hope therefore for his sake you will have the kindness to insert them.

C. CLIFFORD.

SCENE—POLICE COURT.

John Bull, whose face was severely cut, covered with blood, and very much swollen, was charged with attempting to rescue a prisoner from the custody of the police, and further with assaulting constable Jones, 441 H, while in the execution of his duty.

The officer stated that just before seven o'clock the previous evening he was in Trafalgar Square, in company with constable Robinson, when he saw a man named C. Fervent (now in custody) causing an obstruction. Witness told him to "move on," and on his refusal took him into custody, when the prisoner, rushing up, struck him on the head and attempted to take the man Fervent from him by force. Thereupon the witness, leaving Fervent to the care of constable Robinson, proceeded to arrest the prisoner, which he succeeded in doing, after a very severe struggle, but not before witness had received some very hard treatment at the hand of prisoner.

The magistrate said the man was evidently a desperate character, and the constable was to be praised for his courageous conduct in arresting the prisoner.

I thought it was about time we heard the truth, so I muttered over the charm.

P. C. Robinson, 301 H, was then called, and deposed that on the previous evening he had assisted the last witness in arresting C. Fervent, and they were endeavouring to knock the opposition out of him when the prisoner came up and called them "cowards," "brutes," etc. He said he would attend the court and give evidence for Fervent. Upon this, leaving Fervent to the care of witness, Jones sprang upon the prisoner, and so effectually batoned him with his truncheon, that he was soon reduced to an almost senseless condition.

While giving his evidence, P. C. 301 H looked quite happy, as though perfectly certain of promotion. But as he advanced in his evidence, the black looks of the magistrate and the relieved look which stole over the prisoner's face, made him feel very uneasy, although unable to account for these peculiar manifestations.

The magistrate then said that the evidence of the last witness clearly proved that the police had tried to incriminate the prisoner by false evidence. It was perfectly evident that the first witness had committed deliberate perjury. It was past his comprehension why constable Robinson had not supported his fellow policeman. However, in spite of this evidence, directly supporting the prisoner's statement, he must sentence him to three months' hard labour. Prisoner was then removed, looking considerably astonished.

It will be observed that the stone does not seem to force the person to act rightly (witness the sentence). Perhaps it is some fault of the charm. I intend to read the papers found in the box, and may find instruction there.

Believing that the Adulteration Act did not fully prevent fraudulent adulteration, I went the other day into a grocer's shop, kept by a Mr.

Grits. On entering the shop, observing that a lady was being attended to by an assistant, I repeated the charm in an undertone, when the following conversation ensued:

Lady Customer. Have you any butter which you can recommend?

Assistant. Well, madam, this article labelled "pure butter" is a combination of cart-grease, oil fat and various other ingredients, extracted from all manner of filth and rub—

Mr. Grits (who has heard the latter part of this description with horror). Here, James, just see to this; I will serve that lady.—Very sorry, madam, that my young man should have told you what he did. You see, this is margarine, though we label it "pure butter." We are able to get so much more profit out of it than we can out of the genuine article. Can I supply you with any of it?

L. C. No, thank you; I think I will get my butter elsewhere. (Exit.)

Then Mr. Grits and James indulged in mutual recriminations, during which I thought it advisable to take my departure, and postpone my enquiries until a more favourable opportunity presented itself.

You will see that Mr. Grits and James had both unwittingly displayed that article in its true light. My further experience shall be sent anon.

C. C.

THE BLARSTED FURRINERS.

THE growth of Socialism and the gradual breaking up of the competitive system, evidenced by masses of poverty-stricken unemployed, is calling into light some curious men with curious ideas as to how Society based upon robbery can be saved, and its human waste and social wreckage bestowed away from sight.

These would-be saviours of Society plus a slight percentage on salvage, are in short a literary police, as useful to the propertied classes as is Scotland Yard. Their work is to start discussions in press and on platform upon various panaceas for admitted social grievances. Trotting out their own pet hobbies, which generally ends in their being called before a Committee of M.P.'s or outside rogues and faddists, to elaborate their brutal shallow schemes of emigration and repression, and their own installation in some official or semi-official position, where of course they discharge their duties without any connection with filthy lucre, but only to satisfy that yearning love for their fellows, especially landlords, which wells eternally in their virtuous hearts.

Having been met and foiled at every turn by the Socialists until it is not possible to hold a successful open meeting in favour of emigration, they are now trying their hand on the poor foreign immigrant. They seek the support of the propertied classes on one hand by asserting that revolutionary Socialism is due to foreign immigration, and of the worker on the other that his labour is badly remunerated on the same account. Thus two antagonistic forces are used as pawns in a reactionary game, which means the total obliteration of the right of asylum or what is left of it after Most's imprisonment in 1881. Conspicuous in urging restrictions on foreign labourers, stands Mr. Arnold White, of emigrationist fame, who thinks a Jew-hunt possible in the East End, and is fearful lest, as he told a Government official lately, the patience of certain Irish cockneys should be exhausted and they take the matter into their own hands.

Whether the convenient Irish cockney is kept in stock and fed like a writer of the three-deckers in the *Daily Telegraph* is supposed to be, on rum and beef, deponent sayeth not. Anyway, Mr. Arnold White being pre-eminently a religious man will, I think, admit that seeing how slack the emigration business has become the foreign pauper arrives as a god-send, and should be treated with gratitude accordingly.

With old prejudices breaking down amongst the really cultured few, and international congresses and societies abounding to deal with all matters pertaining to science and literature, in presence of international leagues and syndicates of exploiters, who rob without caring two straws about the locale or nationality of their prey, men of the "Stöcker" stamp would have no audience were it not for what Emerson styled the "Man in the Street." He lends a ready ear to the wiles of those who wish to distract the attention of the workers from the real causes of their poverty. "We keep German Princes a lot, sir, whilst the poor man with hunger may rot, sir," sings he.

And the foreign refugee fleeing from the conscription of Continental despotisms or political persecution, shares in the anathema which the "Man in the Street" hurls at those "blooming Germans," who as serenities and royalties enable the grateful English public of snobs to preserve the Protestant succession as decreed on high. The "Man in the Street" is not a thinking man, at all events not on a large scale, he lets others think and write for him, and his favourite journal thinks to strengthen its attacks on monarchy by abuse directed against the whole German race, worker and prince alike, for the remote reason that when the English wanted a fresh master they had a brand new foreign one in the person of George I.

Now German Hans and English Jack as workers have had as little to do with the diplomatic and dynastic arrangements, which result in Germans occupying the English throne, as presumably the King of the Cannibal Islands has. But seeing that the nationality and not the status of royalty is objected to, there is nothing more likely than if that *rara avis*, a pure Englishman, could be found, and he could be prevailed upon to accept the English Crown, that the anti-royalist journal of to-day might become the Court journal of the future, as its chief grievance and *raison d'être* for present attitude would be removed.

The foreign working-man landing in a strange land, and speaking a foreign language, finds every man's hand against him on account of this illiberal teaching; ignorant of the relative monetary values in relation to payment and purchasing power, and in nine cases out of ten desperately exigent, he accepts the first offer, and as this is generally made by some labour-robber or master he comes at once into collision with the English labourer. Expatriated by persecution he is worse off relatively than he would be at home were he left in peace. Even in the case of voluntary emigration to sell his labour in the best market, he is but carrying out the teachings of those economists whose ardent disciples a number of the English workmen are.

Where there is a breaking away from the rigid bloodless doctrines of political economy as taught by capitalist mouthpieces, it is largely due to the influence and to the new light of Socialism shed around his English shopmates by the refugee workmen. Are we then to allow the issues at stake in the struggle between the robbers and the robbed to be obscured by an anti-foreigner agitation?

The presence of foreign competitors in our midst is a complicating incident in what is admitted on the side of those who complain to be a battle of life in which the weakest go to the wall. If the foreigner is the weakest he takes the wall side. A mercantile Christian journal gloats over the fact that with the aid of a newly invented machine we shall shortly be able not only to produce our own bottles, but actually compete and perhaps take away the trade now almost exclusively in the hands of Belgians and Germans. What is to become of them our Christian friend says nothing about. A company is floated with the express purpose of competing with and ruining if possible the foreign lapidaries diamond-polishers, who have now a monopoly of this kind of work. The English capitalist having made his monetary wealth out of over-worked factory hands at home, looks down the Stock and Share List wherein to invest, and hence some Peruvian miner or South African is enslaved with the earnings in first instance of the "free-born" English worker.

The game goes merrily on, and workers of every clime fall under the curse of labour under Capitalism, each enslaving the other. Meanwhile the capitalist plays the game of patriot. Whilst egging on the English worker to a conflict with the foreign labourer, he would abase himself in the dust to a foreign prince or millionaire. England, which according to him shall be for the English alone, strives for the world-market. If a war is necessary to attain it, the patriot is prepared to supply the enemy with arms and ammunition to kill his own countrymen with, or he will cheerfully contract to supply them with rotten provisions and cardboard-soled boots. The system of beggar-my-neighbour knows no country or creed; only the working class are fools enough to listen to the patriotic cackle, and the notes are tuned accordingly. I am an Englishman, German, Frenchman, exclaims the individual, as the case may be. So also is the man who robs, says the Socialist onlooker. The capitalist reaps his dividend in every field. Where the research of the scientist or study of the inventor has added to labour-saving appliances, he simply appropriates without discussion as to the nationality of those who furnish him with his income. If Europeans or natives are not cheap enough, there is the Asiatic to fall back on, as see P. and O. Steamship Co.; and in Australia and America where this resource has been availed of there comes, singularly enough, the same obscurantist twaddle about the foreigner. I should like to hear the private opinion of some intelligent Australian aborigine or Maori as to the social wrecks we have poured upon their shores. Men too cowardly to wrest their native heaths and pastures from the domestic land-thief, yet despoil the black man of his native wilds. Truly, no foreigner who has landed here has attempted that. Equally interesting would it be to hear the opinion of a decent Redskin as to the would-be American "haristocrat" and the dude who struts amidst the rotten civilisation, which must be purely American and undisturbed by "foreign" agitators.

F. KITZ.

(To be concluded.)

The age of chivalry is not over, it is dawning now in this present generation. For now we are beginning to see how dependent the possibilities of leading a noble life are on physical and moral surroundings. However great may be our distrust of forcible Socialism, we are rapidly getting to feel that no one can lay his head on his pillow at peace with himself who is not giving of his time and his sustenance to diminish the number of the outcasts of society, and to increase the number of those who can earn a reasonable income and have the opportunity of living, if they will it, a noble life.—Prof. Alfred Marshall.

HIGH AND LOW PEOPLE.—Be it known, then, that the human species are divided into two sorts of people—to wit, high people and low people. As by high people I would not be understood to mean persons literally born higher in their dimensions than the rest of the species, nor metaphorically those of exalted characters or abilities; so by low people I cannot be construed to intend the reverse. High people signify no other than people of fashion, and low people those of no fashion. . . . Now the world being thus divided into people of fashion and people of no fashion, a fierce contention arose between; nor would those of one party, to avoid suspicion, be seen publicly to speak to those of the other, though they very often held a very good correspondence in private. . . . Two places have been agreed to be divided between them—namely, the Church and the Playhouse, where they segregate themselves from each other in a remarkable manner. . . . This distinction I have never been able to account for: it is sufficient that so far from looking on each other as brethren, in the Christian language, they seem scarce to regard each other as the same species. Thus the terms "strange persons," "people one does not know," "the creatures," "wretches," "beasts," "brutes," and many other appellations, evidently demonstrate; which Mrs. Slipslop having often heard her mistress use, thought she had also a right to use in her turn: and perhaps she was not mistaken, for these two parties, especially those bordering nearly on each other—to wit, the lowest of the highest, and the highest of the low—often change their parties, according to place or time; for those who are people of fashion in one place are often people of no fashion in another.—Joseph Andrews, chap. 13, bk. ii.

REVOLUTIONARY CALENDAR.

WEEK ENDING MAY 5, 1888.

29	Sun.	1763. Wilkes committed to the Tower. 1828. Test Act repealed. 1882. Internal machines found in New York post-office.
30	Mon.	1849. French Attack on Rome repulsed by Garibaldi.
1	Tues.	1820. Thistlewood and others executed. 1861. A. Petroff hanged. 1886. Great Eight Hours' Strike in the United States.—First weekly number of <i>Commonweal</i> .
2	Wed.	1818. Karl Marx born. 1842. Monster Chartist petition presented. 1878. Great Strike at Burnley, Cotton-spinners' Riots. 1879. Dubrovin hanged for armed resistance to arrest. 1882. Parnell, Dillon, and O'Kelly released from Kilmainham.
3	Thur.	1748. Abbé Sieyès born. 1782. Commons Expunge Resolutions against Wilkes. 1845. Tom Hood died. 1886. Murder of Strikers in Chicago.
4	Fri.	1799. Irish Rebellion. 1848. Insurrection at Munich. 1886. Hay-market meeting at Chicago.
5	Sat.	1789. Opening of the States-General in France. 1821. Napoleon died. 1860. Garibaldi embarked for Sicily.

Test Act Repealed.—The Session of 1828 was opened by a very clever attack on intolerance by the Catholic Association presenting a petition signed by some 800,000 Roman Catholics in favour of removing disabilities attacking Protestant Dissent. This idea of Catholics championing Protestant Dissenters was a notion of Daniel O'Connell's, and to add to the perfectness of the matter the petition was drawn up by a Carmelite friar. The Corporation Act was passed after the Restoration, excluding from office all persons who refuse to take the sacrament, etc. The Test Act excluded all Roman Catholics from office. Lord J. Russell moved the repeal February 26, stating he was much encouraged by the fact that when the last attempt had been made (38 years previously) by Mr. Fox, Mr. Pitt had opposed, but that afterwards Mr. Pitt himself came to favour of repeal. The repeal was passed in the Commons by a majority of 44, Palmerston being one opposed to freedom. Like nineteen-twentieths of what is done in favour of reform and progress, the work was done in such a manner that so late as 1864-66 a fight had to be waged against oaths which Roman Catholics had to take. This fight was commenced by some bigotted arrangement of the Dublin Municipal Council, and raised a storm which swept away the Established Church in Ireland.—T. S.

Anton Petroff.—A Russian peasant of the Government of Kazane. When the economic fraud of the abolition of serfdom in February, 1861, became evident to the intelligent part of Russian peasants, riots arose almost in all parts of the country. Peasants everywhere considered the land on which they had toiled for centuries the property of the *mir*, and therefore could not reconcile their minds with the "New Freedom," which simply made them proletarians although it offered them a chance "to buy out" their own land. The riot in Bezdna in Kazane Government was the earliest and the most significant. Negotiations for collective action and propaganda of resistance to "the New Freedom" were carried on among several hundred thousand peasants, not only in Kazane but also the neighbouring districts. Anton Petroff was their spokesman. When the Government sent troops and answered the demands of the people with four volleys, killing 70 men on the spot and severely wounding many hundreds, Anton Petroff stepped forward and said, "It is not a butchery here, take me and let this people alone!" So he was taken and hanged, while the other rioters were terrorised by military force.—TCH.

Monster Chartist Petition.—Thomas Slingsby Duncombe on May 2, 1842, presented the great petition in favour of the Charter. It was taken down to the House by the Chartist delegates at the head of a great procession, to facilitate the movements of which the authorities had stopped the ordinary street traffic. The petition was stated to contain 3,300,000 names and was wheeled into the House, and was presented by Duncombe with the prayer that petitioners should be heard in support at the bar of the House. The conduct of the bulk of the members was so scandalously indifferent that only 56 votes supported Duncombe, and he was so disgusted that he declared that should the people trouble about another such petition he would not be a party to their degradation by presenting it.—T. S.

Death of Thomas Hood.—Born in London, May, 1799; died May 3, 1845. "He sang the Song of the Shirt!" By that he will be remembered when a thousand greater men have passed out of remembrance; and with true instinct it was that line he selected for his epitaph, and which is inscribed on his monument in Kensal Green Cemetery, unveiled July 18, 1854. The song appeared in *Punch*, Christmas number for 1843, and sprang into unparalleled success. Equal in pathos but inferior in power is his "Bridge of Sighs." But his forte lay in themes of sadness and gladness alike, and throughout his brief life he produced a regular stream of jokes and comic sketches and poems, and several works of more importance.—S.

THE SOCIALISTS IN SWITZERLAND.—Meetings of working men have been held both at Berne and at Zurich, at which resolutions were adopted protesting against the recent expulsion of the staff of the journal *Social Democrat* as a violation of existing rights.

THE LOW MOOR IRONWORKS.—These works, which are known by everybody connected with iron in the two hemispheres, have been registered as a limited liability company, under the style of the Low Moor Iron Company (Limited) by Evans, Hostel, and Wadham, Gray's Inn, London, W.C.; capital £300,000, divided into 30,000 shares of £10 each.

ENORMOUS EMIGRATION FROM LIVERPOOL.—It is estimated that over 14,000 emigrants sailed from the Mersey during last week for the United States and Canada, the number of conveying steamers being 12. Although these figures show enormous developments, it is nevertheless anticipated that future weeks will show as great, if not greater, numbers. The companies having steamers sailing were the Cunard (2), White Star (2), National (1), Guion (1), and Inman and International (1) to the United States; and Allan Line (3) and Dominion Line (2) to Canada. The pressure on all the lines is very great, and to meet the demand extra boats have had to be put on. The White Star Line sailed an extra boat last week, and the Cunard Steamship Company have arranged to send an additional boat every week during the pressure, which has every appearance of lasting. The streets of Liverpool during the week have been very lively, as batch after batch of emigrants with their luggage passed along. Out of the 14,000 emigrants about 6,500 went to Canada.



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

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

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

Rejected MSS. only returned if a stamped directed envelope is forwarded with them. Subscriptions.—For Europe and United States, including postage, per year, 6s. six months, 3s.; three months, 1s. 6d.

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

Periodicals received during the week ending Wednesday April 25.

ENGLAND	Detroit—Der Arme Teufel	SWITZERLAND
Die Autonomie	Fort Worth (Tex.)—South West	Zurich—Sozial Demokrat
Justice	Milwaukee (Wis.)—Volksblatt	ITALY
Leaflet Newspaper	Arbeiter Zeitung	Marsala—La Nuova Eta
Labor Tribune	N. Haven—Workmen's Advocate	Cremona—La Freccia
Norwich—Daylight	Providence (R.I.)—The People	Milan—Il Fascio Operaio
Railway Review	San Francisco—Commonwealth	Braila—Ecouli
NEW SOUTH WALES	Coast Seamen's Journal	GERMANY
Hamilton—Radical	Freethought	Berlin—Volks Tribune
INDIA	FRANCE	AUSTRIA
Bankipore—Behar Herald	Paris—Cri du Peuple (daily)	Arbeiterstimme
Madras—People's Friend	Journal du Peuple	Wien—Gleichheit
UNITED STATES	HOLLAND	HUNGARY
New York—Volkszeitung	Hague—Recht voor Allen	Arbeiter-Wochen-Chronik
Der Sozialist	BELGIUM	ROMANIA
Freiheit	Seraing (Ougree)—Le Reveil	Jassy—Municipiorul
Truthseeker	Ghent—Vooruit	DENMARK
Jewish Volkszeitung	Antwerp—De Werker	Social-Demokraten
Boston—Woman's Journal	Brussels—L'Avant-Garde	SWEDEN
Liberty	Liege—L'Avenir	Stockholm, Social-Demokraten
Chicago (Ill.)—Vorbote	SPAIN	Malmo—Arbetare
Chicago—Labor Enquirer	Madrid—El Socialista	NORWAY
Denver (Col.)—Labor Enquirer	Barcelona—Acracia	Kristiania—Social-Democraten

TEETOTALIST ECONOMICS.

In this paper I purpose to deal with one or two mistaken and mischievous notions peculiar to the teetotalist platform. I have not a word to say against teetotalism or teetotalers, as such. So far as their light leads them, I believe them to be honest and devoted men—albeit fanatically optimist as to the saving virtues of complete abstinence from intoxicating drinks. As to whether or not alcoholic drink is necessarily an evil, perhaps I am not competent to say. Still I differ in so far with the teetotaler, and am content to differ in the best possible good humour.

Teetotalism, as advocated by the militant propagandist, is, without doubt, out and out individualism. The ideal goal to which all men should bend their energies is "exploitation." "Live sparsely, save all you can, look to 'number one' (i.e., the greatest number), and start business on your own hook with all possible celerity. Let 'Every man for himself' be the guiding phrase, exactly as at present, with just this unredeeming feature to boot—it shall then be every man for himself in cold sober calculating blood." Hence it is that teetotalers invariably oppose Socialism at first sight. Socialism is the very antithesis of the ideal to which they cling. Their sober heads do not help them. They have to unlearn their narrow individualism first (an awful job!), after which there is the average chance open to them of gathering in the truths of Socialism. If teetotalist advocacy only recognised that, while individuals may exploit their fellows for individual profit, the many—the millions—must necessarily remain the wage-paid toilers; if it were less severely indifferent to the hideous struggle for subsistence which makes life, to these, harder and more precarious the easier and surer life ought to become; if it were not conveniently blind to the wage-lowering tendency of labour-saving machinery, which flings thousands annually into helpless destitution,—then it would surely lead to teetotalism, plus something more. As it is, it embraces all the horrors of the present situation, minus intoxicating drink.

But it is with the economic blundering of teetotalers that I wish chiefly to deal. We are told that, since drink is the cause of poverty, and since it is always a waste of sustenance, the community would be well—supremely well—rid of it at all hazards. Now, that drink is sometimes—not generally—the cause of poverty goes without saying; that it often intensifies the miseries attendant on poverty is also true; but then poverty becomes the cause and not the effect of drink. It is useless to chide the folly of the individual. Conditions have greater play upon character than character has upon conditions. Not to indulge in nice points, let us hear the teetotaler further in support of his position. With a great parade of figures, he tells us that, given a teetotal people, industrial depressions might be avoided and that plenty and prosperity would be such a people's portion. For, so he argues,

if the millions of hard cash which are annually wasted in the liquor traffic were diverted into "channels of legitimate trade" (e.g., shoddy clothing, cardboard boots, etc.), an incalculably greater quantity of labour would be called into activity than is required in the production of strong, and doubtless also diluted, drinks.

The foregoing economic tit-bit, plausibly stated, has started false hopes in the minds of many people, but it is based on nothing substantial unless ignorance of economics be regarded as such. In the first place it tacitly assumes strong drink to be especially a monopoly of the workers. Nevertheless it is a matter of fact that the well-to-do classes spend, in proportion to their numbers, considerably more in alcoholic liquors than do the wage-receivers. But are well-to-do people exempted from this sort of self-denial, as in other vexatious things? They lack for nothing in the form of material needs and comforts. Heaven and earth could not move them to make purchases in order to accommodate the labour market. What, then, would their abstention from intoxicants result in? A curtailment of expenditure and a saving to themselves, no doubt; a corresponding increase in capital seeking investment and tending to lessen the rate of interest, which, in turn, would diminish the inducement to abstinence (total and otherwise); all which conclusions are in strict accordance with the approved gospel of political economy. So that no one would profit a penny by the proceeding. Nay, numbers would undoubtedly suffer. There would be a shrinkage of expenditure, and therewith of labour. But we will not needlessly terrify ourselves. The well-to-do are not likely to relinquish their wine-bibbing, whatever necessity may drive their poorer brethren to. At best the increased purchasing power, if any, accruing to a teetotal democracy would not be equal to the "national drink bill." It is manifest, though, that the onus of clearing the markets, of keeping industry merrily spinning, would devolve upon the workers themselves. Apart from the apparent absurdity of any such belief, let us enquire what would then become of the savings-bank accounts which it is popularly supposed would be at every man's elbow? You cannot eat your cake and have it: you cannot spend your money and save it. You can, I suppose, take your choice of the two alternatives, or split the difference, but you will neither boom a depressed market nor run up a visible bank account, whatever else you do. Clearly the reason over all things why the workers do not buy back the products of their labour is because they do not receive in wages an equivalent for what they produce. Two-thirds of the results of labour go to non-producers, who could not, if they tried their level best, consume what they get, in the staples of "legitimate trade." Those who could, and who rightfully should, consume, are without the means and will remain so while existing social arrangements continue.

Perhaps the most significant feature of present-time industrialism is the tendency of labour-saving, or—as it has been more aptly worded—wage-saving machinery, to reduce the means of consumption, on the one hand, while it enlarges the power of production on the other. This, again, is never taken into account by teetotalist propagandists, although its disastrous effects are everywhere visible. Even the small pecuniary advantages gained by "abstainers" are menaced by the uses to which capitalists subject the available resources of science. Men are compelled to give way before the cheaper labour of women and children; and while production has, in some instances, been augmented a hundred-fold, wages have bade promisingly to fall within measurable distance of a vanishing point. Professor Levi says that production is now increasing at the rate of 20 per cent. per annum—population at the same time increasing only 1 per cent. The power of production is practically beyond measure. We see, however, constant development in results; we see the nations of the world engaged in what looks like a life and death struggle for market-supremacy, boding ill, in the long run, to capitalists themselves, bearing immediately and destructively on the workers of all nations. Every aid that science and the ingenuity of man can give to production quickens and embitters the struggle for existence. Markets are no longer subject to local or national conditionings for supplies, or for what is called the "normal" rate of prices. International competition has linked civilised nations with iron bands and a dead levelling of peoples to accommodate prices which shall yield profits, is what must ensue—always of course assuming that competition holds the field. In the end, that people which can subsist on the least and produce the most will be fittest and dominant. There is thus a chance still remaining for the Chinese.

The struggle is beginning in earnest. English capitalists, under pressure, are now clamouring for technical education. Technical education, they foresee, will eventuate in yet more efficient and economical production. And the end bids fair to be a world, glutted with commodities, and a people without the means to buy.

Now note the open discontent, which he who runs may read, as daily expressed in capitalist journals respecting rates of wages in England. The long hours and short-commons of foreign workmen furnish inspired patriotic material for yards of editorial blank prose. Capitalists threaten to take their capital abroad, or to introduce cheap foreign labour into England (both of which has already been done)—should native workmen show stubborn. If only British beef-eating workmen would consent to vegetate on rice and green-meat, what a happy country this might indeed become! Teetotalism would be somewhat, but with vegetarianism combined we could monopolise the production of the world again! Oh to think of it!

Teetotal, vegetarian, or otherwise, as people may be, wages will go down—infinitely down—to the margin of subsistence, whatever that may be. The law is an economic one, and has been rightly called "the iron law." Your thrifty, sober citizen, out of work through causes over which no individual son of man has control, sooner than see his

small savings dwindle into an exasperating memory, sooner than find himself and family reduced to beggary, will naturally offer to do work at any price the capitalist may choose to pay, and, as self-preservation is a weakness common to us all, the starveling will not stop to consider who may suffer by consequence. Enough for him if it fetches bread. Bear in mind that this is no vain speculation; it has already manifested itself, and future pressure can only spread and strengthen the degrading fact.

In the teeth of these warring elements teetotalism is economically nowhere. It is misleading; it is cruel to put forward so paltry an issue and name it the "panacea". And yet this is most frequently done. Regarded as a means of reforming the individual, teetotalism takes a proper though not very imposing position. Even then I fail to see much virtue in it as an adult weaning-process. Lecturing drinkers on the evils of their habit is not quite improving the shining hour, and for exactly the same reason that carrying coals to Newcastle is proverbially reckoned as labour in vain. If broken health, empty pockets, and all the woes that wait thereon, be not enough to induce the sinner to shun the pot-house and its blue-complexioned geni, then it is not in the tongue of man to do it. Experience, if we may trust the sages, is the best of all teachers, and if, in spite of its lessons, men persist in excessive guzzling, we must look behind *prima facie* impulses if we wish to get at the acting causes. Much might here be said about the manifold ways through which men are persuaded into drinking habits by force of the very circumstances in conformity with which they must act in order to live. But I must pass on, remarking it only.

Before parting with my subject, however, a word on certain characteristics peculiar to propagandist abstainers may be fitting. Without cause or warrant, so far as I can see, these have constituted themselves into a sort of lay-parson brotherhood—harping, with an approved twang, on a pseudo-religious string. I do not call them Pharisees—times and the word have changed—but their constant iteration of "Oh, God, we thank thee we are not as other men are—especially as is this publican!" looks decidedly suggestive. Terrible, too, is the enmity which they manifest towards publicans. It reminds one of the theological spirit of former days as shown in the burning of "heretics"; to wit, all who do not see eye to eye with yourself. But by far their most objectionable feature is the scraping and saving ideal life of which these propagandists seem enamoured. We want a manlier creed, with a stronger sense of right and wrong pervading, than is to be found in the grandmotherly platitudes of Thrift-mongers whose prophet is Smiles and whose argument is laughable.

The end of production should not be to hoard, "to put by" (neither should it be for profit's sake), but rather to use and enjoy. Men to-day, speaking generally, live to labour; their lives are a round of toil; they become mere productive automata. Three-fourths of us waste and embitter three-fourths of our days in an anxious prowl after meat and drink. Who should fare so well as he whose days are devoted to making the wherewith to fare well? and yet, who fares so ill as he? Out of the scrapings flung to him he is exhorted to save, to deny himself—whose whole life is a self-denial. While such monster injustices obtain in our midst how exceeding small, by comparison, appears the question of Total Abstinence! The pity is that it is no smaller than the holding capacity of so many well-meaning men.

T. MAGUIRE.

A PRIMROSE LEAGUE BANQUET.

Nor often does it fall to the lot of a Socialist to be present at a Primrose League banquet. Yet such, recently, was the case, and it may be of interest to the readers of the *Commonweal* to know what these feasts are like.

The hall in which the gathering was held was gorgeously decorated. Flags, banners, and that beautiful little flower, which is now disgraced by political associations of the most contemptible kind, were everywhere displayed. Amongst the flags hung around the room were those of the Republics of France and America. Surely it must have been evident, even to a Tory, that these gave the lie to the principles of the Primrose League. "Imperium et libertas" was woven upon one banner, but in the subsequent speeches the latter was quite forgotten.

The meeting was representative of those who live upon the labour of others. Smug respectability was there in full war-paint, and the gas-light was reflected from the white shirt-fronts of the men and the nakedness of the women. Workmen seemed to be conspicuous by their absence. The room was full of pretty women. The Primrose Leaguers are wise in this direction. They know that whenever the devil wishes to seduce honest men, he sends his temptation in the form of a beautiful female, hence the power these people possess. They also are aware that an Englishman is fond of a good dinner. They therefore work rather by his stomach than his brain. One speaker, during the evening, confessed as much. "The way to win elections," he said, "is to take care that the electors have plenty of entertainments." How low the citizens of this country must have fallen when they are held so cheap!

Many of the men in the room showed their petty pride by wearing various insignia. "What are those decorations?" enquired the Socialist, imagining that maybe they were Victoria Crosses or medals granted by the Humane Society for bravery. "They are badges for special service," was the reply. The "special service" was discovered to be,

in one case, a couple of hours canvassing during the last election. Decorations seem to be easily earned nowadays.

After passing through the most uncomfortable period of an entertainment of this kind—the time before the feasting—the chairman was ushered in with a great flourish: He was too great a personage to enter with the ordinary folk. Grace was said (your Primrose Leaguer is nothing if he is not religious; or rather it is politic to appear so)—"Let us thank the Lord for what we are about to receive," someone said hurriedly: "Let us thank the workers' ignorance" might more truly have been said.

The eating now began. Whatever may be the failings of these good people, fasting is not one of them. They can gorge. Would that some of our unemployed could have seen them, and observed the luxuries, which their class had produced, consumed by their exploiters. It was good for a Socialist to be there: it certainly increased his discontent with the present iniquitous system.

The speeches that followed were neither brilliant nor brief. "Loyalty to our Queen is the first great principle of the Primrose League," said a little self-satisfied worshipper of a human idol. A glance at the programme showed this person to be a notorious Q.C., who has been likened to Judas Iscariot. Poor old Queen! we almost pity her when we think of the laudatory rubbish that is thrown at her. If she is very silly, her pride must be painful; but if, on the other hand, she is clever, she must be nearly sickened to death with it all.

That doleful tune called the "National Anthem" was then rendered, and after some further foolish remarks about "our brave and good" Prince and Princess, and the rest of the royal family, the "hired assassins" were toasted. One speaker declared that our fighting men were in a high state of efficiency. Another that they were not, and that more money should be spent upon them;—it is needless to say that he was a military officer. In the remarks of the latter a strange statement was made—that is, strange in such a place—for he admitted his disbelief in Royal Commissions. "Hear, hear!" bitterly exclaimed the listening Socialist, calling to memory the one that had recently discussed the Housing of the Poor. "Never have our troops been used for political purposes," someone else added. The forns of maltreated Irishmen might have risen behind the speaker and muttered "Liar!" Again, the listening Socialist remembered the Guards riding through the people in Trafalgar Square on Bloody Sunday. One fire-eating gentleman said that this country must imitate the policy of Bismark and make England bristle with bayonets. Would that the workers could have heard some of these gentlemen; Socialist propaganda would then be comparatively easy work. After these foolish and sanguinary remarks were finished, the Houses of Parliament were toasted. Admirable institutions—so said the proposer,—they always reflected and obeyed the wishes of the people. Some cruel person might have suggested the wanton neglect of the aspirations of Ireland, but the speaker pursued his remarks uninterruptedly. He may have imagined that they were good enough for his audience; and if so, he was right. It was thought by the same orator that perhaps the House of Lords might have power to exclude from its midst those who were immoral and unworthy. He did not inform the company how many then would be left. None but the members of that august assembly should reform it, he added: as sensibly might he have said none but the murderer shall be his executioner.

Mr. Chamberlain, in a subsequent speech, was claimed as nearly a Primrose Leaguer. How will he who spoke of the doctrine of ransom like this? Truly the mighty have fallen! The person who said this was he who had gained his notoriety by abusing Mr. Chamberlain when at the height of his career. It was the most sickening spectacle of the evening to watch this man, who had made his reputation, such as it is, by his backwardly attacks upon the person whom now he was besmearing with his filthy adulation.

During the evening "patriotic" songs were sung, interspersed with nursery rhymes; the "House that Jack Built" coming immediately after the toast to the House of Lords.

There seeming to be no end to the oratory and guzzling of the noble dames, knights, and associates of this organisation, and not wishing to become drunk under the plea of toast-drinking, the writer withdrew from the meeting. The first objects to meet his view as he left the glitter and nauseous flattery of the Primrose Feast were the beggary and vice of our West-end. The comparison was terrible. And these people wish to conserve this system of society, which has these necessary appendages. God help them, their stupidity is such that man cannot.

MARK MANLY.

We have received notice that *La Question Sociale*, which ceased its publication some years ago, will shortly begin its weekly appearance at Florence. The editors will publish early in May a small volume or pamphlet by F. S. Merlini, called a "Manual of Economy for Working Men" ("Manuale di Economia per gli operai"). We hope its reappearance will be attended with all success.

MEMORIAL FOR GEORGE HARRISON'S RELEASE.—A committee, consisting of delegates from various clubs, and other gentlemen, with power to add to their number, has been formed for the purpose of obtaining the release of (or at least a mitigation of the excessively severe sentence passed upon) George Harrison, a working stonemason, who was arrested in connection with the attempted meeting at Trafalgar Square on the 13th of last November, and sentenced to five years' penal servitude for an assault upon the police, including a charge of stabbing a constable. It is proposed to draw up a memorial to the Home Secretary, setting out such new facts as have been disclosed since the trial; and an appeal is made to all lovers of justice, of whatever class or party, to aid the committee in their work, as this is not a question of politics, but one of common humanity.

THE LABOUR STRUGGLE.

BRITAIN.

Messrs. M'Niel threaten to withdraw their bobbin manufactory from Sligo, owing to the employes striking.

Messrs. Russell and Co., Greenock, have offered an increase of 3d. per 100 rivets to the riveters on strike, but the offer has been declined, their demand being for 6d. The present rate is 7s. 6d. per 100.

It has been agreed by the Consett Company to concede the workmen in the steel-plate mills department an advance of 5 per cent., to take effect from the 12th of March last. A sliding-scale whereby the men's wages will be regulated for the next twelve months, has been arranged.

The spinners at Albert Mill, Heywood, and the weavers at Angola Mill, Droglesden, are on strike, owing to list prices not being adhered to. Various schemes have been resorted to in order to fill the places of the strikers, but so far without success, and both mills are completely stopped.

FUSTIAN WEAVING.—At Messrs. Joseph Clegg and Son's, Higher Crompton, in addition to working short time for several months, about 30 have had notices given them to stop when their looms are empty. About four jobbers have also had notice. This course has been adopted on account of the serious depression in the fustian weaving trade.

WAGES IN THE BOLTON IRON TRADE.—The Bolton Branch of the Iron Trade Employers' Association have resolved to advance wages in July next, so as to restore the 7½ per cent. which was taken off in February, 1886, and which caused the great strike extending over six months.

SETTLEMENT OF STRIKE AT LONGRIDGE.—The strike of weavers at the Longridge Co-operative Mill commented on last week, has now been amicably settled. The three points of difference were the question of wages, the boycotting of men weavers and the conduct of the under manager. An undertaking is given that the standard list prices shall be paid. The directors say they had never given orders for men weavers to be stopped; and the conduct of the manager that had been so justly complained of is to cease.

STRIKE ON THE FORTH BRIDGE WORKS.—The platers working in the south sheds and field left work last Wednesday in a body, to the number of 60 or 70. As each plater has from three to four labourers, the exodus was considerable. The point of dispute is a rise in the rate of wages. At present 6½d. per hour is paid, but a rise of ½d. or 1d. per hour was required. On Monday the men resumed work, the masters having, it is understood, in most cases conceded ½d. per hour.

NAIL-MAKERS MOBBED.—The traitors who have taken the place of the men on strike at the works of Messrs. Shaw, malleable nail manufacturers, Birmingham, were pretty roughly handled on leaving work a few nights ago, by a large crowd, numbering several hundreds. A few of the "rats" escaped, but a large number were driven back into the works, where they remained all night guarded by an extra force of police. The dispute occurred last July, since which time, in consequence chiefly of the hostility of people living in the vicinity, the factory has been guarded by police night and day; notwithstanding which the traitors are occasionally reminded of the detestation in which they are held by the unionists and their friends.

FIGHTING FOR A STANDARD LIST OF PRICES.—A strike of weavers is now going on at Colne, which has already lasted twenty-one weeks. It appears that Mr. Catlow the employer does not recognise any standard list, but pays what appears good to himself, which of course leads to no end of trouble to the weavers in calculating their work and comparing prices with what is paid elsewhere. This objectionable practice also prevails at Nelson, Banaloch, and a few other places, and is the cause of much bickering. Some of these employers, Mr. Catlow among the number, assert that they pay in the aggregate as much as the list, but if so it does not say much for their sanity that they should make such ado about nothing, and the way to bring them to their senses is to compel them to pay their weavers on a recognised system.

OLDHAM COTTON SPINNERS.—The joint-committees of the Oldham operatives and the employers have held a conference to consider the workpeople's claim for an advance of wages. The employers' committee, whilst admitting that trade had improved, made the usual complaint that the workers were making their demand too soon, and suggesting that the question stand over till January next. The spinners' committee very properly refused to recommend any delay, knowing full well that the employers do not wait twelve months when trade is bad and prices falling before resorting to short time and reductions in their workpeople's wages. During the last few days resolutions have been passed at each of the fourteen branches of the operatives' Association, affirming that the time has come for taking the necessary steps to procure an advance of 5 per cent., and Thos. Ashton the general secretary has sent notice to the masters' committee requiring that such advance be paid on and after the 21st day of May.

THE EARLY CLOSING BILL.—Sir Andrew Clark, Sir James Paget, Bart., Mr. W. S. Playfair, Mr. James Duncan, Mr. Richard Quinn, Mr. W. S. Priestley, Mr. Samuel Wilks, Mr. William O. Savory, Mr. John Marshall, and more than 300 other physicians have signed the petition in support of the Early Closing Bill. The Archbishop of Canterbury, the Bishop of London, Cardinal Manning, a large number of the Church of England clergy, the Roman Catholic clergy, and many Nonconformist ministers have also signed the petition in favour of the Bill. A separate petition signed by nearly all the hospital matrons and nurses in the metropolis has also been sent in supporting the Bill.

THE LANARK ELECTION.—Mr. Keir Hardie on Saturday called the leading members of his committee throughout Mid-Lanark to a conference in Hamilton, and explained the concessions and endeavours he had made to prevent the splitting in the Liberal vote. He offered, also, if the delegates were so minded, to withdraw from the contest. The delegates resolved unanimously that Mr. Hardie should continue the fight, and in the evening the candidate informed a large meeting of electors that under no circumstances or conditions would he now retire. The action of the Irish Parliamentary Party in supporting the official Liberal against the Labour candidate, is causing much bitterness to be imported into the contest. Mr. Conybeare, M.P., as a protest, refused to accompany Mr. Cox to Ennis as he had intended. *United Ireland* which for some time past has talked very big about the union of the two democracies, has disgracefully belied its professions by a most rancorous attack on the candidate who stands in the interest of the English democracy. The struggle is evidently between the classes and the masses. Lady Aber-

deen is supporting the nominee of the middle-class caucus, whilst Mrs. Cunningham-Graham is working heartily on behalf of the workers' champion.

FALSE FRIENDS.—The agitation amongst the Oldham cotton spinners for an advance in wages is the occasion for a number of impudent people posing as friends of the workers trying to stop the movement as ill-timed, badly advised, etc. One of these "friends" who has been writing to the *Manchester Examiner* over the name of "Allen Mellor," is said to be largely interested in many of the spinning companies in the Oldham district, both as shareholder and director. Concerning the genus of which he is a type, the *Cotton Factory Times* says: "Whenever the cotton operatives are agitating for an advance in wages, or talking of the propriety or otherwise of resisting a proposed reduction in wages, there are always to be found a number of what we may term legal advisers—who are ever ready with their experience and judgment to guide the operatives in the paths which they ought to travel, and to shun those which disturb the interests of the thousands who live upon the results of the toiling masses who are pent up in the heated rooms of the cotton factories. The true motives of these gentlemen may easily be understood from the fact that they never come into the field to offer advice to the employers when they are nibbling at the operatives' earnings. Such a proceeding would be contrary to their pecuniary interests, and therefore it pays them best to keep silent, unless it be that they recommend the workpeople to accept the employers' proposals in the interests of the trade. We admit there are fewer of this class of persons who make it their business to interfere in labour disputes than formerly was the case, and if we don't make a mistake in reading the signs of the times, there will be fewer in the future, as the mass of workers are getting too wide awake to take any serious notice of interested advice."

MORE FACTS ABOUT THE SWEATING SYSTEM.—Samuel Wildman, formerly a teacher in Hungary, now one of the sweated in the boot trade, in reply to questions by Lord Onslow as to the inability of the sweated to maintain a trade union, said the men did not earn enough wages to get their living, and said they were afraid they would be discharged if it were known that they were members of the union. The knifers were opposed to union among the finishers, because the manufacturers required the knifers to enter into a bond for the execution of their contracts in order to avoid the risk of strikes. If Parliament were to compel shorter hours the greeners would join the union. They had some difficulty at their meetings owing to diversity of language. By the chairman: He paid 4s. a week for lodging in one room with his wife and six children. The room was about 4½ yards square. There were about one hundred persons living in the same house.—Charles Solomon a Jew, described himself as a knifer or "master," taking boots to make at 2s. per dozen pairs, out of which he got 2s. per dozen for knifing and providing materials for the three finishers, who received among them the other 2s. Asked by the chairman if he thought this division was fair, he said it was the custom in the trade, and no one ever complained. If he would not undertake the boots at 4s. there were plenty who would. He had known prices as low as 1s. 6d. per dozen, and he believed those boots were sold at 1s. 6d. a pair. He worked with his men seventeen or eighteen hours per day during the busy time. He only required capital of a pound or two, and gave the security of being a householder.—Solomon Rosenberg came to this country eighteen years ago, and has been a boot-finisher ever since, at an average wage of 15s. per week, out of which he pays 9s. 6d. for rent, oil for his lamp, etc., and has to support himself, his wife, and six children out of the remainder.—Solomon Bauu stated that for years his wages did not average more than 5s. per week.—W. Hoffman, for twenty-six years in the boot trade, but now engaged on a trade journal, stated that the sweating rooms which he had visited were almost invariably very dirty and overcrowded, both as regarded sleeping rooms and often as regarded workrooms. He had found beds in underground cellars, and many times persons slept in the workrooms and took in lodgers. The place was generally unhealthy, and the atmosphere very detrimental, especially to child life. In one room there were six persons at work, and the cooking and working were going on in the same place. Cleanliness was never thought of at all. He had known eighteen persons living in one room about 9 ft. by 15 ft. The sweating was generally in Spitalfields, Whitechapel, and Commercial Road.

R. L. and others.—Too late. Communications to be of use for current issue must reach me not later than Tuesday afternoon.

T. BINNING.

A LETTER FROM AUSTRALIA.

COMRADES.—Seeing that the *Commonweal* is the organ of our parent society in England, we its offshoot in Australia would fain bring ourselves under the notice of our Old World comrades through its columns, and so I pen the following at the request of the members of the Australian Socialist League.

On May 4th, 1887, seven comrades—A. M. Potter, W. H. MacNamara, H. Hickman, J. Chandler, R. Luxton, T. Peters, and J. E. Anderson—met together for the purpose of forming the League. Potter and MacNamara drafted the Platform, which they submitted for debate on May 11th. For several Sundays after that the League continued the debates; but as the Jubilee insanity overtook some of the citizens of Sydney, we let the debates drop for awhile, for the purpose of attending open-air meetings and taking advantage of the popular excitement to bring our cause prominently before the public.

About this time John Norton, the Australian Labour delegate to Europe, returned to Sydney and had a grand reception in the Town Hall given him by the labourers of N.S.W. I expect most of your readers have, like myself and others out here, read his speech at the Paris Congress. The opinion we formed of him from that speech was that he was a Socialist; to our surprise, however, we found that he had gone renegade, and denied being a Socialist in the following terms: Socialism is all very well in Europe, where the workers are ground under the heel of despots, but it is impracticable in sunny Australia. MacNamara, who is a member of the School of Arts Debating Club, challenged him to stick to his Parisian utterances, when he was debating that question in the club, but he declined.

Just before the Jubilee a Republican movement was set on foot, to frustrate the royalists in their attempt to make Australians appear to grovel to royalty, in which movement we took a prominent part, and received our just rewards. We having frustrated the royalists in their attempt to cram royalty down our throats, H. Parkes, the Premier of N.S.W., determined to frustrate us in our attempt to spread our Socialist and republican views; so he, like that lover of gold in the Bible, issued a decree to the lessees of all

theatres in Sydney, ordering them on pain of heavy fines and the non-granting of new licences, to close their theatres against all Socialist, republican, and freethought lectures. This took place just before their failure to pass a loyal resolution at the ever famous Exhibition meeting in the old Exhibition building, Prince Alfred's Park, Sydney. The manner in which that meeting was called was as follows. The University footballers and students first received instructions to attend at seven o'clock; the Naval Brigade were given a password and instructed to attend in plain clothes at 7.15; the whole of the police force of Sydney came next, with Sydney's professional prizefighters and detectives, at 7.20. Then came the law-and-order party, the Orange Lodges, with half the Permanent Artillery in plain clothes, at 7.25, the remaining half holding themselves in readiness with loaded rifles to shoot down their fellow-citizens at the bidding of Parkes or some other despot. But in spite of all these precautions, the national sentiment was strong enough to turn this packed meeting into a howling throng of men, who, within fifteen minutes of the doors being thrown open, held full possession of the building, and again the royalist meeting was a failure.

On August 20th, the founders of the League met to consider the advisability of bringing it into public notice again by announcing its inauguration. A public meeting was called for August 26th; the attendance was not very large, but included three reporters from the daily papers. After reading over the principles and rules of the League, McNamara moved, "That we hold public debates every Sunday evening, the said debates to be free to all comers, for the purpose of educating the public on the great social questions of the day;" Pilter seconded, and it was carried unanimously. The Sydney daily papers for the next day devoted a short space in their advertising sheets to abusing our principles, and calling us all kinds of nice names. On August 28th we held our first debate on "Socialism," and McNamara opened. We have continued to hold debates every Sunday evening up to the present date. The most important subjects discussed during that period were: "Socialism in Relation to Christian Socialism," "Land Nationalisation on Henry George's Principle," "Land Nationalisation on a Socialistic Principle," "Biology and Evolution," "Socialism versus Anarchy," "Modern Republicanism," "The Chinese Question," "Payment of Members," "The Great Political Lie, or, Free Trade and Protection Shams Exposed," and many other interesting subjects, which bearing on Australia alone would have less interest for your readers.

On November 6th, a meeting was called to protest against the hanging of the Chicago martyrs, at which McNamara moved, Pilter seconded, and Anderton supported, "That we Socialists, Anarchists, Republicans, Democrats, and other lovers of liberty assembled together this evening, offer our solemn and sincere protest against the hanging of those seven labour agitators (so-called Anarchists) in Chicago, as no evidence of a confirmatory nature has been brought forward to prove that they threw or had any connection with the person who did throw the bomb at the Haymarket meeting in that city, and so caused the deaths of several persons." The resolution was carried unanimously, the hall being crowded. Pilter gave a brief description of the case. On the following Sunday a funeral service was held in memory of the four who were hung and the one who was murdered on the Friday before. McNamara gave a very touching and appropriate recitation, after which Pilter fully described the agitation with which the men had been connected.

Every Sunday afternoon since the League started, McNamara, Anderton, and other members have delivered addresses in the Peoples' Domain, on Social Problems. Born Australians as a rule are too fond of taking a trip down their beautiful harbour, or attending a dancing saloon in the cool of the evening, to take any interest in their future or that of their children. When anything new comes out, such as the Republican movement during the Jubilee, they will flock to it like a lot of sheep, and after two or three months you will not be able to get an audience of more than two or three hundred. They sink into a state of apathy from which it would take some startling event, such as a Naval Defence Bill being foisted upon them, or the Governor asking for his salary to be raised instead of lowered, to wake them up. The Republican movement, of which I have spoken, has resulted in a Republican League with a platform on the State Socialistic principle, and several Socialists among its prime movers, so we are satisfied it is not taking example by those bogus Republics, America and France; but popular favour seems to go more toward our own out-and-out teaching. We are sorely in need of a few able and energetic agitators here, who would soon alter the smallness of our numbers; however, with our little organ, the *Radical*, we are making ourselves heard. The *Radical* is to be enlarged, which will make it the same size as the *Commonweal*, and so still further help our movement. Our principal opponent out here is ex-Parson Joe Symes, who attacks us and our teaching in the *Liberator*, but never gives us a show in reply. In becoming a "Freethinker" he only turned superstition upside down, and is as bigotted about the butt-end as he was about the top. We have some very good and active speakers and propagandists, but are mostly hand-to-mouth workers, and so cannot do as much as we would like in the way of going about and forming branches. But until we can get the men we want we shall do all we can with the men we have got.

The times here are very hard, and work is still becoming scarcer. Several thousands are already out of employ, and several thousands more are likely to be thrown out before our winter (May, June, and July) comes along. Female labour is very scarce, as most of the girls and women who follow that line are taking to the streets sooner than be governed in the despot manner some of the employers treat them out here. New South Wales is commercially fast going down the hill. Of course, the manufacturing monopolists tell the people it is because we have not adopted Protection, and the importing monopolists tell them it is because their sister colony, Victoria, has adopted Protection and shut their goods out. But the Socialists, Republicans, and Land Nationalisers, who will not keep their tongues still, are telling them the true cause, and they are already beginning to listen more than their rulers like. Meanwhile, the House of Representatives becomes more and more a mixture of gamblers, bankrupts, swindlers, Orangemen, and deadheads, and is usefully alienating the masses from law-'n'-order. Things are getting warm in that Macquarie Street refuge for abuses and stronghold of dishonesty, and I should not wonder if before this reaches you a free fight had occurred on "the floor of the House" and the police been called in to pull up law-makers for law-breaking. This kind of thing doesn't trouble the bourgeois, for he can go on money-getting all the same, and the worker stands it and suffers by it because he's a fool. If the workers of New South Wales woke from their apathy, they could soon sweep out the pestilent rubbish of privilege and corruption that oppresses them. To make them do this is what we are after, and hope to achieve; when it is done there will be no room for unemployment and misery in "Sunny New South Wales."—With fraternal greetings,
J. E. ANDERTON.

A NEW WORLD.

SQUALOR and squandering foul the land,
Where sloth brings honour, and labour scorn;
When will the workers understand?
Hasten we, hasten the happy morn!

How should Beauty or Virtue thrive,
Where sloth brings honour, and labour scorn?
Each from the dead shall be made alive,—
Hasten we, hasten the happy morn!

Thought is fettered, and Truth is blind,
Where sloth brings honour, and labour scorn.
Free shall they range as the sun and wind,—
Hasten we, hasten the happy morn!

Woman is bartered and bought for gold,
Where sloth brings honour, and labour scorn.
Love shall be stinted to none, nor sold,—
Hasten we, hasten the happy morn!

Toil is crushed under Mammon's heel,
Where sloth brings honour, and labour scorn.
Mammon and Toil shall be Common Weal,—
Hasten we, hasten the happy morn!

Every man is his brother's bane,
Where sloth brings honour, and labour scorn.
Of fellowship yet shall the earth be fain,—
Hasten we, hasten the happy morn!

Life is hopeless in park and slum,
Where sloth brings honour, and labour scorn.
All shall be well in the days to come,—
Hasten we, hasten the happy morn!

C. W. BECKETT.

THE SOCIALIST LEAGUE.

OFFICES: 13 FARRINGTON ROAD, E.C.

Annual Conference.—The Fourth Annual Conference of the Socialist League will be held at 13 Farringdon Road, on Whit-Sunday, May 20. The attention of Branches is particularly referred to (1) Rule V. on the subject of the annual conference, pp. 3 and 4 of Constitution and Rules; and (2) that all branches wishing to be represented at the Conference must pay their subscription up to the 31st March by May 1st.

Branch Subscriptions Paid.—1887: Hastings, Nottingham, Pelsall—None. Croydon, Glasgow, Ipswich, Leeds, Merton, 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, Wednesbury—to end of October.—1888:—Marylebone—to end of January. Leicester—to end of February. Acton, Bradford, Clerkenwell, Hackney, Hammersmith, North London, Oxford, L.E.L. (Hoxton)—to end of March. Mile-end, Fulham—to end of April.

Branches are reminded that all Subscriptions must be paid within the next week.

Resolution by Executive.—At the last meeting of the Executive, a resolution congratulating our Australian comrades on the success which has attended their efforts in propagating the principles of Socialism as advocated by the Socialist League, was passed. Fraternal greetings were sent them, and the hope expressed that the Australian *Radical*, their weekly organ, would secure a wide circulation.

"COMMONWEAL" PRINTING FUND.

W. B., 6d. C. J. F., 2s. 6d. K. F., 1s. Langley, 2s. P. W., 6d. Oxford Branch, 2s.

PROPAGANDA FUND.

Collected at Regent's Park, April 15, 8s.; ditto, April 22, 2s. 6d.

Note.—Branches are recommended to make collections at all outdoor meetings for this fund. All monies collected to be forwarded to the general secretary for acknowledgment in *Commonweal*.

REPORTS.

BLOOMSBURY.—On Thursday, at the Communist Club, 49, Tottenham Street, W., H. A. Barker lectured on "The Labour Struggle." Good discussion followed.—W. W. B.

CLERKENWELL.—On Wednesday, April 18, H. Davis lectured on "The Progress of Events." Sunday evening, 22nd, open-air meeting was held on Green, addressed by Brooks and Turner. In hall, Mark Manly lectured on "How to Advance Socialism." Lively debate.—B.

HACKNEY.—Samuels and Mainwaring addressed a meeting at the Salmon and Ball on Sunday morning, the audience listening to the speakers in spite of the rain. In the evening, the second anniversary of the Hackney branch was celebrated by a tea-fight, which was a decided success. At the business meeting afterwards, J. Lane was appointed delegate to Annual Conference of the Socialist League.

MILE END AND BETHNAL GREEN.—On Tuesday last, Davis addressed a good meeting on Mile End Waste. Same evening, W. Morris lectured in our hall on "What Socialists Want." Sunday owing to wet weather, no meeting was held on the Waste or in the Park. Three new members made.—H. M.

MITCHAM.—A good meeting was held on the Fair Green on Sunday morning by Eden and Henderson, the audience standing patiently through pouring rain. Two new members were made.—H.

NORTH LONDON.—Parker, Henderson, and Cantwell addressed the opening meeting of the season at Ossulton Street on Friday night. Parker spoke at Regent's Park on Sunday morning.

GLASGOW.—On Saturday, Glasier went to Hamilton and addressed a large meeting at the New Cross. After speaking about half-an-hour, the police requested our comrade to pack up *Commonweal* and betake himself away. On enquiring at the police-station our comrade was informed that the Caledonian

Railway Company, who owned the plot of ground, had requested the police to stop all meetings there. We will see if they do so. On Sunday our comrades went to the usual stations, but held no meetings as the weather was bitterly cold.—J. B.

NORWICH.—Thursday last meeting held at Church School-room, Sprowston; Mowbray took part, and explained some principles of Socialism. Friday, Beare spoke in Gordon Hall on "The Present Society and Socialism," several comrades joined in discussion. Sunday morning meeting held at St. Faith's by Poynts and Mowbray; in afternoon meeting in Market Place by Mowbray; in evening another good meeting in Market Place by Poynts and Mowbray; no lecture in the Gordon Hall owing to a sudden bereavement in family of lecturer.—A. J. S.

WALSALL.—Monday, Tarn and Shorter (Birmingham) visited us. Tarn lectured on "Robert Owen." Saturday good audience addressed in open-air by Saunders and Deakin. Fair sale of literature.—J. T. D.

DUBLIN.—At Industrial League, 75, Hungry Street, April 17th, Fitzpatrick and O'Gorman addressed a fair audience on "The Housing of the Working-Classes," and were very well received. Towards the close of the meeting a speaker acknowledged being converted to the Socialist view of the question.

L. E. L. CLUB AND INSTITUTE.—On Sunday evening last, owing to the indisposition of H. H. Sparling, no lecture was given. The evening, however, was pleasantly passed with songs, readings, etc.—H. A. B.

UNITED RADICAL CLUB.—On Sunday evening last, H. A. Barker lectured at the United Radical Club, Kay Street, Hackney Road, on "The Aims of Socialism." A long and animated discussion followed.

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 26, at 8.30. Monthly Business Meeting. May 3rd. Lecture. 10th. Quarterly Business Meeting. 17th. Concert in aid of Branch.

Clerkenwell.—Hall of the Socialist League, 13 Farringdon Rd., E.C. Business meeting every Sunday at 7. Sunday April 29, at 8.30, W. H. Utley, "Labour in Vain." Wednesday May 2, at 8.30, H. H. Sparling, "Early Closing."

Fulham.—8 Effie Road, Walham Green. Sunday April 29, at 8 p.m., A. K. Donald, "Crime: its Prevention and Cure."

Hackney.—The next meeting of members will be held at the Berner Street Club, on Tuesday May 8th.

Hammersmith.—Kelmscott House, Upper Mall, W. Sunday April 29, at 8. G. B. Shaw (Fabian Society), a Lecture.

Hoxton.—Labour Emancipation League Club and Institute, 1 Hoxton Square (near Shoreditch Ch.). Sunday April 29, at 8 p.m., Mark Manly will lecture, "How to Advance Socialism."

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 evening at 9 p.m. Debating Class for members after meeting. April 26, W. Diggins will open on "War"; chairman, J. Bellhouse. Members please attend.

North London.—Will all members please note that the business meeting of this branch will be held on Friday evening at the Autonomie Club, Windmill Street, Tottenham Court Road, after the open-air meeting at Ossulton Street. All members are asked to attend at Ossulton Street at 8 o'clock. Secretary, Nelly Parker, 109 Cavendish Buildings, opposite Holborn Town Hall.

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.

Bradford.—Read's Coffee Tavern, Ivegate. Meets Tuesdays at 8.

Carnoustie (Scottish Section: Forfarshire).—Meeting every Tuesday, at 8 p.m., in the Carnoustie Restaurant. H. McCluskey, Millar Street, Secy.

Cowdenbeath (Scot. Sec.).—J. Duncan, 30 Arthur Pl., sec

Dundee (Scot. Sect.).—Meetings every Sunday in the Trades Hall, opposite Tay Bridge Station.

Edinburgh (Scottish Section).—4 Park Street. Discussion every Thursday at 8. May 3, "Is Socialism merely an Economic Change?" May 10, "Relation of Socialism to Christianity."

Galashiels (Scot Sect.).—J. Walker, 6 Victoria St., sec.

Gallatoun and Dysart (Scottish Section: Fife).—Meet every Tuesday at 7 p.m. in Gallatoun Public School. Secretary, A. Paterson, 152 Rosslyn St.

Glasgow.—84 John St. Reading-room open 10 a.m. till 10 p.m. daily.

Leeds.—Lady Lane. Open every evening. Business meeting Fridays at 8. Address all communications to T. Payler, 11 Sheldon Street, Holbeck, Leeds.

Leicester.—Hosiery Union, Horsefair St. Fridays at 8. **Lochelly** (Scottish Section: Fife).—Secs. (pro tem.), John Greig and Hugh Conway, The Square.

Norwich.—Gordon Hall. Friday next, paper by comrade Mowbray, subject "Organisation"—comrades are earnestly urged to attend. Saturday, Co-operative Clothing Association, 8.30 until 10 p.m. Sunday, Gordon Hall at 8. Monday, Entertainment at 8. Tuesday, Members meeting at 8.30—comrades, attend. Wednesday, 8.30, Ways and Means and Literary Committees. Thursday, 8, Band practice. Friday, 8.30, Debating Class.

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 29.

- 11 ...Acton—the SteyneThe Branch
- 11 ...Turnham Green—Front CommonActon Bch.
- 11.30...Hackney—Salmon and BallParker
- 11.30...Hammersmith—Beacon RoadThe Branch
- 11.30...Hoxton Church, Fiftield St.Pope & Brooks
- 11.30...Merton—Haydons RoadThe Branch
- 11.30...Mile-end WasteMainwaring
- 11.30...Mitcham Fair GreenTurner & Kitz
- 11.30...Regent's ParkNicoll
- 11.30...St. Pancras ArchesEden & Wardle
- 11.30...Walham GreenFulham Branch
- 3 ...Victoria ParkParker & Brooks
- 3.30...Hyde ParkN. London Branch
- 7.30...Clerkenwell GreenBlundell
- 7.30...Stamford HillCharles, Brooks, & Parker

Tuesday.

- 8 ...Mile-end WasteCharles & Mainwaring

Friday.

- 8 ...Euston Rd.—Ossulton StreetCantwell

PROVINCES.

Glasgow.—Saturday: Cambuslang, at 6.30. Sunday: Paisley Road Toll, at 5; Infirmary Square at 7.

Leeds.—Sunday: Vicar's Croft, at 11 a.m.

Norwich.—Sunday: Ber Street Fountain at 11.45; Market Place at 3 and 7.30.

FREEMASONS' ARMS, 81 Long Acre, W.C.—Sunday 29th April at 8.30 p.m., Debate opened by T. J. Dalziel, subject "Will Home Rule Benefit the Irish People?"

JUNIOR SOCIALIST EDUCATIONAL SOCIETY.—On Sat. April 28, at 8 o'clock sharp, E. Fox will read a paper on "Commercialism and Socialism."

STRIKE FUND.—The concluding entertainment for the purpose of raising money for this fund was given in Hall of League on Saturday evening. Friends who have taken programmes are requested to send in the cash at once, in order that report may be presented, to W. B. Parker or H. B. Tarleton, treasurer of the fund.

CENTRAL CROYDON LIBERAL AND RADICAL CLUB, Crown Hill, Croydon.—On Wednesday May 2nd, Edward Aveling will lecture on "Working Men in America and in England." Chair to be taken by Mr. J. G. West at 8 p.m. precisely.

A Concert and Draw will take place on Sunday April 29 at the Communist Working Men's Club, 49 Tottenham Street, W., in aid of Adam Weiler, who has been illing in health for a considerable time. Tickets, price 6d, may be had at the above-named Club; and at 181 Queen Victoria Street, S. D. F. office; F. Lessner, 12 Fitzroy Street, Fitzroy Square; and the offices of the S.L.

East-end Branches.

On Saturday evening, May 5th, at 8 p.m., a meeting of the East-end Branches of the Socialist League, in conjunction with the L. E. L., will be held at the L. E. L. Club and Institute, 1 Hoxton Square, for the purpose of organising the Outdoor Propaganda in the Eastern and North-eastern districts of London. Comrades living in these districts are requested to attend.

SOCIALIST CO-OPERATIVE FEDERATION.—Meeting at *Commonweal* Office, 13 Farringdon Road, on Wednesday May 2, at 7 p.m.

Mrs. Wardle will supply Branch Subscription Cards at 9d. per doz. Leaflet Press, Cursitor street.

TO LOVERS OF JUSTICE.

Received from New York, second consignment, 600 copies of the *Special Edition* of

SOCIAL SCIENCE

Containing splendid Portraits of the eight Chicago Anarchists, with good Biographical Notices of each. Price, post free, 5d. 6 copies, post free, 2s. 4d. 12 copies, post free, 4s. 6d. 3 dozen, 12s. 6d. Every worker should procure a copy.

Birmingham: J. Sketchley, 8 Arthur Place, Parade.

NEW BRANCH PREMISES FUND.

THE CLERKENWELL BRANCH OF THE S.L.

announce that on SUNDAY EVENING, MAY 13, at 3 p.m.

at the Farringdon Hall, 13 Farringdon Road, E.C. A DRAMATIC AND MUSICAL

Entertainment will be given by ALFRED ADAMS' DRAMATIC CLASS For the Benefit of the above Fund.

The evening's amusement will consist of Two Laughable Farces, Singing, and Instrumental Music, by Mesdames Wardley, M. Blundell, A. Taylor, and Miss Jessie Adams, Miss Maud Shelton; Messrs. T. Clayton, Wm. Blundell, Alf. Adams, H. A. Barker.

Admission by Programme, Threepence.

'THE AUSTRALIAN RADICAL.'

Advocate of Liberty, Equality, and Fraternity New Lambton Road, Hamilton, Australia.

This journal is the organ of the Australian Socialist League. Copies may be had at the office of the *Commonweal*, 13 Farringdon Road, E.C. 1d. per copy, 1s. 6d. per quarter, post free.

'COMMONWEAL' AGENTS IN LONDON.

PUBLISHING OFFICE: 13 FARRINGTON ROAD, E.C.

N.

Hoxton—Smea, Dridport Place. Payne, Great James Street, Islington—Gee, 56 High Street.

N. W.

Osnaburgh Street, near Portland Road Station—Pethuich. Albany Street do. do. Leigh, 84. Marylebone—Gibbs, Lisson Grove.

W.

Soho—Gardner, Lexington Street, Golden Square. Oxford Street—Hall, Hanway Street. Tottenham Court Road—Autonomie Club, Windmill St. Boor, Cleveland Street. Mauley, Cleveland St. Cleveland Hall, Cleveland Street. Goodblood, Foley Street, Cleveland St. Communist Club, 49 Tottenham St. Hoffman, Francis St. Hanstan, 51 Charlotte Street, Goodge Street. Edgware Road—W. Smith, 24 Chapel Street. Upper St Martins Lane—Lotenle, 1 Little St Andrew Street.

W. C.

King's Cross—Shirley, 169 King's Cross Road. King's Cross Road—W. Stubbs, 43. Bloomsbury—A. C. Varley, 24 High Street. High Holborn—Truelove, 256. Chancery Lane—Smith, 14 Cursitor Street.

E. C.

Old Street, St Lukes—Davidson, 75. Askey, 107. —, 168. St Lukes—Baker, Tabernacle Street. —, 36 Featherstone t. Whitecross Street—Dipple, 69. Sun Street—Lawrence, 48. Chiswell Street—James, 30. Mrs. Butterick, 50 Barbican. Clerkenwell—Edwards, 119 Rosoman St. Trigg, Clerkenwell Green. Walker, 181 John Street Road. Hill, Compton St. Brighty, Spencer Street. Leather Lane—Wilkins, 14 Field, 49. Finsbury—Cason, 37 Leonard Street. Farringdon Street—, 123. Forder, 28 Stonecutter Street. Fleet Street—Reeves, 185. Freethought Publishing Coy., 63. Marshall, Fleet Street. Muners, 106 Fetter Lane. Farringdon, Fetter Lane. Brandon, Wine Office Court. Bath Street—Hurlstone, 5. Bamer Street—Freeman, 74. City Road—Ablett, 122. Morell, Moreland Street.

E.

Whitechapel Road—Eades, 219. Korbey, 118. Hackney Road—Milley, 15. Wood, 108. Ell, 443. Smith, 182. Bouchard, 157a Goldsmith Row. King, 68 Goldsmith Row. Hackney—Bartlett, 116. Honerton—Worledge, 52 High Street. Old Ford Road—Roberts, 4. Bethnal Green—Platt, Bonner Street. Cambridge road—Auckland, Bishop's Road.

S. E.

Blackfriars Road, Bridge End—G. Harris, 4. Borough Road—Ketteridge, 117. Titcomb, 29. Borough—Laming, 5a Gt. Suffolk Street. Waterloo Bridge Road—Keats, corner of Oakley Street. Deptford—Joseph, Green Bank, Rocky St. Taylor, 274 Lower Road. Pasco, 89 High Street. Chambers, Deptford Bridge. Clayton, 12 Clarence Place, Deptford Bridge. Greenwich—Chambers, 18 Church Street. Bermondsey—Coppard, 103 Roubil Road. —, 86 Snowsfield. Walworth Road—Sheward, 175. Mears, 323. Brown, 44 Deacon Street. Blandford, Hill Street. Newington Butts—Cox, Draper Street. York Road, Wandsworth End—Head, 290. York Road, Battorswa End—Plimton, 41.

S. W.

Tooting—, High St. Evans, 3 Aldis Terrace, Merton Rd. Palmer, Dunts Hill, Earlsfield Railway Station. Wandsworth—Oleaman, 181 High Street. Battersea Park Road—R. Tims, 383. E. Buteux, 34 Abercrombie Street. Garret Lane—Clark, 7 Grosvenor Terrace. Merton—Hendon, High Street. Meeson, Haydons Road. Clapham Common—Tarlton, 4 Bronells Road. Camberwell New Road—Dingley, 57. Nine Elms—Murry, 37 Wandsworth Road. Streatham Bush, Wellfield Road.

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.]

Newsagents and others supplying the *Commonweal* in the PROVINCES are asked to send their names for publication.

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