

# THE COMMONWEAL

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WEEKLY; ONE PENNY.

## NOTES ON NEWS.

THE alliance of the Tories with the Pope would seem to be a serious political event instead of a piece of meaningless tomfoolery as a reasonable man would expect. It has even been said that Mr. Parnell was going to advise backing down on the Plan of Campaign and boycotting; but in his speech at the Eighty Club he simply threw the responsibility on the Catholic members, with a prudent reserve as to the Plan of Campaign not being necessary to Irish agitation; he also somewhat deprecates the Plan as having led to coercion. This all looks somewhat like hedging; as if he thinks surrender may be necessary. But surrender won't do. Whatever may be said of the Plan, the boycott is a necessary weapon to a people who cannot fight and will not yield.

And all this fuss about an old man representing a superstition all but extinct; in fact extinct everywhere except in Ireland. The once redoubtable Pope of Rome has now become a *don*, and the expression of his opinions about as important as those of the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Oxford; or indeed of the head beadle of that reverent presence, the old gentleman in the gown and the round flat cap that used to be called the head gold-stick in my young days. Yet at least this sham of what was once a real power, dried up and effete as it is, is good enough to be used as a policeman by the reactionary party. What a desperately shabby resource to use. An innocent intelligent onlooker would say: My friend, as to the pure all things are pure, so to the shabby all things are shabby.

Anyhow this bugbear of a gold-stick has to be faced by the Irish people, and surely the sooner the better: a revolution led by an ecclesiastical hierarchy, even though the first grade is composed of the parish priests, many of whom are thoroughly good fellows individually, "is to us suspect."

Meanwhile the reaction is harping vigorously on the other string, and Mr. O'Brien is in for another three months. Of course whatever force there may be in Mr. Balfour comes of his obstinacy; he hopes to pit this quality in himself against the same quality in the Irish; and apart from his advantage that he has nothing to *suffer* in playing the game, he has an advantage in the stupid carelessness of the British nation which whether or no it be an original national quality, has been so much fostered by the commercial life which we have brought to such a perfection of degradation and cowardice.

For these imprisonments for political offences are now becoming so common that though they once shocked public opinion somewhat, they are beginning to wear it out, and people who are not put in prison, thinks Balfour, will soon cease to notice them, and then will begin their "deterrent effect" on the offenders. Certainly he is justified in having such hopes. It is the custom of the British to be much impressed, and perhaps genuinely so with some disgraceful outcome of the system which enslaves us, and to make a great outcry about it for a little time, and then, the disgrace all the time going on, and even getting worse, to drop it all, as if there had been no disgrace, and no outcry. Balfour is probably right to count on this cowardice which has become so characteristic of us.

Besides why should we not get used to a few people being punished by prison-torture for their political opinions when we are quite used to a great many people having the same punishment administered to them for the crime of *poverty*?

Nay, can we say the *same* punishment? Our political offenders whether they have worn the prison dress or protested against wearing it, whether they have performed or protested against the "menial labour" which by the way they condemn nice-looking girls to perform for them every day, when they come out of prison return to "refined" homes and the applause of at least a wide circle of "respectable" people.

The punishment of poverty is far different from that: tendencies harmless or even good in themselves perverted, inevitable degradation forced, many a weak good-natured, or self-indulgent, or hot-tempered person not worse than the average taken altogether; criminal habits forced on him, and then prison, and confirmation of the criminal habits and further degradation, and the man who might have been harmless or even useful has but one use now, and that a terrible one. He is "an enemy of society." This is the punishment of poverty, and yet

we are so used to it, that we think we are living in a state of profound peace in England! Fools that we are!

Or indeed to many thousands, what is the earth on which we live, so full of beauty and such infinite resources for pleasure and well-doing as it is, but one huge prison? Listen once more to the often-told tale, the tale we have got so used to, and which we heed so little; this time told, I must say, by a person who has developed strange opinions out of the dreadful facts that he has seen and the conventional habits of thought which have been *forced*, we will say, upon him:

"The Rev. W. Adamson, Vicar of Old Ford, stated [before the Commission of the House of Lords] that his parish had a population of 11,066, and contained no middle-class. He said that the sweating-system had always existed, but had become aggravated from the results of civilisation, competition and early marriages, and necessarily from that [which?] overpopulation. Large builders, though forbidden in their contracts, practised sweating by subletting at a mere fraction of the contract price. In the making of match-boxes 2½d. per gross was paid until the Salvation Army came into competition [the Army denies this] and reduced the price to 2¼d. And now the making of the boxes was sublet for 1½d. per gross, the workers finding their own paste. A woman assisted by her children, when at home from school, could earn from 4s. 6d. to 5s. per week. Early marriages arose from the two sexes herding together in the same rooms [What does *that* arise from?], from men marrying in order to be partially supported by their wives' earnings, and from men and women thinking [poor souls!] their united wages would be better, though poor, than single wages."

Mr. Adamson then discussed as to whether clergymen are bound to marry people before the age of twenty-one, as though "marriage" were necessary to breeding, and then gets on to the "foreigner" question. "He agreed with other witnesses that the immigration of paupers had an appreciable effect, and that the foreigners were at least as moral, and more sober than the English [what a curious concatenation!]; but they neglected sanitation, and might in that way be the means of spreading infectious disease." (But then, according to the Arnold White theory, in this respect they ought to be useful in helping forward "the elimination of the unfit," because people die of infectious diseases pretty often.)

More sweating details: silk mantles made for 7½d., sold (with the silk, such as it is, I suppose) at from 16s. to £1; asked if these were of the best class, thought they were the same mantles as were sold at £5. "He disapproved of the present system of education, because it fitted boys to be clerks; 200 of them would apply for a boy clerkship, and some would offer to take it for nothing in the hope of getting eventually a few shillings a-week. [Yes, even education, the good thing we are all crying out for, is turned into a curse, when robbery is the foundation of society.] Girls learned only the theory and not the practice of domestic work, and therefore went into factories or were compelled [note the word] to lead an immoral life." (Yes, people forgetting the merest elementary arts of life, as to my certain knowledge they are doing, in the country as well as in the towns: this is "civilisation"—i.e., a reversion to an inferior kind of savagery.)

"As an instance of extreme poverty, he gave the case of a person who sold 6 fibre bags for 6d., and out of that spent 3d. for new material, 1d. for coals, 1½d. for bread, ¼d. for milk, ¼d. for tea, to make a meal for four persons,"—and so on, and so on. (Remember, this is why Mr. O'Brien's rations will be so scanty; the prison must try not to compete in attractions with the workshop.)

"He admitted [?] that the middleman saved the principal a great deal of trouble, because the latter might not wish to have a number of poor persons about his premises. Teaching boys and girls to work for their own living might check the competition of unskilled labour [how? in the name of wonder!], but would have no great effect so long as over-population [i.e., unregulated slave-breeding] existed. In this utilitarian [say thievish and murderous] age, the sweeter wished to get his work done as cheaply as possible, and did not care whether it was done by horse, ass, or man."

Now for the remedies: "He would impose a poll-tax on foreigners, and would inflict a penalty on men marrying before twenty-one and girls before eighteen years of age"!!!

This is certainly a wonderful result to come out of all the ~~reverend~~ gentleman's experience, if he has not been misrepresented by the newspaper reporter, which after all is very possible; in which case the general journalistic conscience must bear the burden. In any case the "remedy" means once more that we are engaged in slave-breeding, and have overdone it, and can now see nothing to be done but trying to regulate the slave-breeding, and if we possibly can, reducing the number of the slaves to the limit of profit to us. We have got used to these horrors, and since they do not happen to ourselves, we find we can bear them pretty well— But patience! something will take place as a result of them which will be hard to bear, if we do not find better "remedies" than Arnold White and Co. suggest to us: nor can we find any remedy, as long as such lives as these are necessary to the lives of those who are ordained to live on the labour of others.

W. M.

### FRANCE IN 1848--1888.

WHEN, in 1848, the Republic was proclaimed, the people thought that all was accomplished that was necessary to their salvation. They thought of the great changes that took place during the revolution at the close of the last century, and they expected changes equally great to follow the proclamation of the Republic of 1848. But during the fifty years, great economical changes had taken place, and a powerful financial aristocracy had taken the place of the old nobility. The clergy, too, had regained their influence in the rural districts, while the mass of the rural population had become peasant proprietors. In 1848 the people of the towns had to deal with new conditions and with evils that did not exist at the close of the last century.

The proclamation of the Republic in 1848 found the revolutionary forces in an immense minority, and the reaction began from the day the Republic was proclaimed. The Provisional Government inaugurated on February 24 was itself reactionary, the majority being royalists; the small trading classes being represented by two and the labour party by two. The agitation that led to the revolution was organised by the small trading classes against the great capitalists and the stock exchange, and their demand was for parliamentary reform; but one of the first decrees adopted by the Provisional Government was to pay the fund-holders of the public debt their dividends six months in advance. Then it was clearly seen that the oppressed peoples of the Continent looked to France to aid them in their struggles for freedom; but Lamartine, as minister of foreign affairs, issued his famous (or infamous) dispatch, recognising all existing governments. The first of these measures destroyed the revolution in France, the second gave confidence to the despotisms of the Continent, and destroyed the hopes of the peoples.

When the Constituent Assembly met, it was found to consist almost exclusively of royalists, clericals, and friends of the financial aristocracy. The reaction was triumphant. The vote of the millions had not saved the people. To the rural population the Republic had brought increased taxation. The rural voters therefore returned men who were opposed to the Republic. The revolution threatened the supremacy of the clergy. The clergy therefore organised the ignorance of the population against the revolution. The proletarians demanded the emancipation of labour, and the capitalists replied by throwing hundreds of thousands idle on the streets. Public works were organised, chiefly of an unproductive kind, while the workers were paid out of the rates; this punished the small trading classes for their share in the revolution, and set them and the workers by the ears. The workshops were closed and the June insurrection followed. The reaction was now triumphant in the streets of Paris, and the Republic only a sham; its existence only a question of time. Henceforth the task of the reaction was an easy one, to repress the revolutionary spirit at home and discredit the Republic abroad.

It is not necessary to refer to the measures against the liberty of the press and the freedom of association. Nor is it necessary to refer to the brutal suppression of the Roman Republic and the re-establishment by force of arms of the power of the Papacy, the effects of which are even yet felt in the relations of France and Italy. But let us come to the year 1850.

On the 10th and 28th of March that year a number of by-elections took place, and 21 Socialists or Red Republicans were returned, including three for Paris. These three were returned by very large majorities, the numbers voting for them being—for De Flotte, 126,982; Vidal, 128,490; and for H. Carnot, 132,797. A large number of the small trading classes had again joined the proletarians. The rage of the reactionists knew no bounds. It was not the Republic that was in danger, but the very foundations of society. The press demanded the revision of the Constitution and the purification of universal suffrage. The workers were condemned as "savage barbarians." The *Patrie*, a Government evening paper, declared, "We are surrounded by cannibals. If they remain in their lair they must be *extinguished*; if they come out they must be *cut to pieces*." In the Chamber Montalembert declared in the most emphatic manner, "I say it is necessary to undertake against Socialism which is devouring us a Roman expedition at home. War was made by France against the Roman Republic. God blessed the undertaking. You are precisely in the same situation by Socialism at home. There only remains for us war—war carried on energetically and by every means."

An "Electoral Reform Bill" was introduced, for which urgency was voted on May 21, by 462 to 227. The Bill soon became law. The number of electors on the register was 9,268,449. It was proposed

to restrict the vote to those who could prove a three years' residence, which would disfranchise the great bulk of the working classes in towns. Second, to those who paid personal taxes to the amount of twelve francs per annum, numbering 6,009,420. That clause would disfranchise over 3,200,000 electors. There were many other restrictions. The effect of the measure was to disfranchise close on two-thirds of the electors. Every deputy who voted for that Bill was guilty of treason—treason against the Constitution, and treason against the people. The very first article of the Constitution read as follows: "The sovereignty resides in the universality of French citizens: it is inalienable and imprescriptible. No individual, no fraction of the people, can assume the exclusive exercise of it." Article 55: "All Frenchmen, twenty-one years of age, and enjoying their civil and political rights, are electors without any conditions of qualification." The words of the Constitution were clear and precise. The Electoral Reform Bill was a violation of that Constitution. Nay, it was a violation of the rights of the people, which are antecedent to all Constitutions. It was an act of war against the people, and if every traitor had been seized and lynched in the streets of Paris, he would have received the just reward of his treason.

The treason of the Assembly, supported by the bloodthirsty Order-mongers of every country, prepared the way for the treason of Louis Napoleon. That Assembly had destroyed the liberty of the people; it had declared war against the interests of the proletarians; and its authority rested on usurpation. It had dishonoured the very name of the Republic abroad, and its words inspired no confidence. And when Napoleon swept it away, it only received at the hands of a bloodstained usurper what it ought to have received at the hands of the people.

Of the reign of that red-handed scoundrel it is not necessary to dwell. Suffice it to say, that in 1851 the taxation of France was £50,000,000; in 1869, over £85,000,000. In 1851 the debt was rather over £220,000,000; in 1869, £570,000,000. The cost of the war of 1870 to France was another £560,000,000, which brought the debt in 1871 to over £999,000,000, the yearly charge of which was over £39,900,000. Nor have things improved since then. In 1882 the taxation was over £142,000,000, and the debt is still over 900,000,000.

And look at France to-day. She is still the victim of the gods of finance. The vampires of usury are still bleeding her at every pore. After three revolutions and numberless insurrections, with parliamentary action for four generations, the financial aristocracy are still supreme. Everywhere the people are crushed to the earth. Nowhere does the Assembly inspire confidence. Everywhere the royalists and the reactionists again demand the *revision* of the Constitution. And another would-be dictator is in the field, boldly demanding the extinction of the Assembly and the Constitution. True, the present Government may rally around it the revolutionary forces to some extent. True, it may attempt to ameliorate the condition of the proletarians. But let us not be deceived. The royalists and the reactionists once more fear the spread of revolutionary ideas; they once more fear the spread of Socialism; and they again mean war, war against the people, war against the principle of eternal justice. And they will grasp the hand of any pretender, they will give their support to any usurper, who will guarantee them in safety the continued plunder of the people.

As to the proposed "revision" of the Constitution, what will it be when it comes? Will it be more favourable to the royalists, or will it be more democratic? The Royalists and the Napoleonists, and the friends of Boulanger all demand the revision. The revolutionary parties also want the revision. The present Constitution gives far more power to the reactionary than to the revolutionary parties. All classes, except the Opportunists, want the revision. The revision, therefore, is sure to come; the question is, What will come next? As for the great Boulanger, he wants to be all things to all men. He is the great mystery man of the present day; but above all he is a military man, and represents the military element. It is true France may think that she requires a military genius to save her from extinction, but is she right? Instead of a Dictator, France requires honest men who can raise up the masses, who can inspire the millions with the love of liberty, who can raise their aspirations upward, and lead them onward to the conquest of the Social Revolution.

But look at the number to-day interested in supporting the financial aristocracy. Holders of French National Stock—

Year.	No. in thousands.	Average sum.
1810	146	£480
1830	195	1,230
1850	846	350
1860	1,074	395
1870	1,254	360
1880	4,630	170

Here we have over four million six hundred thousand interested in upholding the present system. What can free her from the rule of the traitors; what can liberate her from the grasp of the usurers; what can raise her to liberty and dignity, and the people to freedom and prosperity? The revolution alone can do this. But the revolution means war to the death against every form of treason, against usurpation in all its shapes; war against usury through all the ramifications of society. And let us hope that the people will be equal to the work before them, equal to the task imposed upon them.

J. SKETCHLEY.

Over 3000 emigrants left Queenstown last week for America, a number exceeding those of any week this or last year.

## INTERNATIONAL NOTES.

## ITALY.

**VARESE.**—Three hundred bricklayers are out on strike here, in the hopes of getting a rise in their wages.

**BERNALDA BASILICATA.**—The inhabitants of this town made a hostile demonstration before the municipality last week, in consequence of the raising of a local tax. The carabinieri fired on the crowd, and killed four men, besides wounding several. Costa, in his observations in the Camera on this occurrence, remarked that it could scarcely be doubted that the carabinieri would be found in the right, as the Government and its satellites naturally desired that the people should be crushed down by taxation and be silent under it.

The small proprietors of Italy are disappearing rapidly, and what remains of this system will soon be among the things that were. Small estates and factories are confiscated in the name of the Government when the necessary taxes due to the State are after a certain time not forthcoming. From the 1st Jan. 1873 to the 30th June 1887, nearly 55 million real-estate owners were in this way expropriated. A great part of these real estates, when put up to auction, are not bid for by any one, even at the lowest prices, and thus about 35 thousand of all these small holdings remain wasted, that is, in the hands of Government, neither capable of returning to the proprietors, nor of being sold or let. The Government, moreover, has to pay a large sum on this unused land for communal and provincial taxes, and in fact does pay nearly 277 thousand lire per annum, and this on practically wasted territory. The fertility of some part of Italy would render it the garden of Europe under reasonable cultivation, yet here we have a country essentially agricultural going to ruin under a preposterous no-system of waste and indolence, and its people among the poorest and most tax-ridden of this age.

## SPAIN.

**BARCELONA.**—The strike of cabinet-workers continues here, some few of the masters having already accepted the working day of nine hours demanded by the strikers.

**MATARÓ.**—A correspondent to *El Socialista* gives in a recent letter the worst possible character to some of the spinning and weaving factories of this town. For the masters to alter the tariff of wages at their caprice is of common occurrence, and over-work in the factories is disgracefully frequent, at one place men being many times kept labouring until two in the morning.

**SESTAO.**—The Socialists of Bilbao held a propagandist meeting here on Sunday week, which was so well attended that the place where it was held, though of a good size, was not large enough to hold all the working-men who answered the summons of the Socialists. These explained at length the principles of the party, which were so kindly taken to that at the close of the proceedings a branch was formed for the neighbourhood. The mayor and townsfolk, when they heard of the proposed meeting, took all possible measures to prevent its success, though ineffectually. The factory-owners threatened their employés with dismissal if they showed at the meeting, while the authorities arrested two men who were foremost in distributing bills and placing announcements, sending them, bound like dangerous criminals, to Bilbao, where they were locked up during the time of excitement. The difficulty of popularising Socialism in the minor towns of any country is here exemplified; everybody knows everybody, officials act the autocrat, individuals are noted in a moment in any departure from the rule of conduct, and the *esprit de corps* which is the foundation of an automatic community is overpowered and lost amid the confusion caused by tyranny on the one side and timidity on the other. M.

Articles of interest to Socialists in May magazines:—*Nineteenth Century*: 'The Clergy and the Land,' R. E. Prothero. *National Review*: 'The Working Classes and Religion,' Edward Salmon; 'Conservatism and Property,' W. H. Mallock. *Quarterly Review*: 'Friendly Societies,' 'The Monarchy of July and its Lessons,' 'Difficulties of Good Government.' *Fortnightly Review*: 'The House of Lords and the County Councils,' E. A. Freeman; 'The Revival of Architecture,' Wm. Morris. *Contemporary Review*: 'The Occupancy of Land,' Leonard Courtenay, M.P.; 'The Dislocations of Industry,' Wm. Smart; 'The Position of Women in Ancient Rome,' Principal Donald, LL.D. *Journal of Education*: 'Ethical Teaching of Froebel,' Mrs. C. G. Montefiore. *Harper's*: 'Russian Convicts in the Salt Mines of Iletsk,' Dr. H. Lansdell, F.R.G.S.

**MARK TWAIN WAS WROUGHT UP.**—Mr. George Kennan, vice-president of the Washington Literary Society, created something of a sensation at a meeting of that body by appearing clad in tattered garments and loaded down with heavy chains while he read some affecting letters from Russian State prisoners detailing the cruelties to which the imprisoned subjects of the Czar were subjected. The reading had such an effect on the company that many of them were moved to tears, and Samuel L. Clemens, more familiar as Mark Twain, was so wrought up that he declared in all seriousness that if he were a Russian he would certainly be a revolutionist. That's all very well. We all knew Mark had a heart, and some who found their way there said it was a big one; but from this anecdote it looks as if he kept its public appearances to the times when Russian atrocities are talked of. How would the equal miseries endured in his own land strike him? And if he sized up America wouldn't he find that revolutionists were needed as much there as anywhere else?

**SOLIDARITY.**—Where sacrifice is for gain in money returns, it is, in a measure, a mercantile transaction; an outlay from which a gainful return is expected. Even in that case, however, the risk and loss are not all incurred for the individual striker's own advantage only, for it inures to the general good of all concerned in the trades, wherever located. The men engaged in the strike, who make the sacrifice, are not necessarily the beneficiaries. Moneys in hand, the savings of labour, are voluntarily paid out for possible future good to the whole calling. Present earnings are refused, present privations are incurred, by the comparatively few, in the hope of a future good for the many. It must be borne in mind that this self-taxation for a principle is quite voluntary. It is not the taxation by a government, imposed by a central power—it is a personal operation in which every individual can, and if he pleases, does, have his say. It may not always be a work of wisdom, but it is proof of terrible earnestness, and when the loss is incurred in what is called the "sympathetic" strike, it is a proof of unselfishness and the sense of special interest in the general welfare.—*Labour Commissioner, State of New York.*

## VICE VERSA.

I dreamt of a wonderful world last night,  
Most woefully topsy-turvey,  
Where things which we think proper and right,  
Are scouted as mean and scurvy.

For there the classes that live on rents  
And draw their dividends gaily,  
Are about on a par with the luckless gents  
Who adorn the dock of Old Bailey.

And there I found, with a pang of pain,  
How pampered the meanest trade is;  
For the humblest workers with hand or brain,  
Are treated like lords and ladies.

A criminal there on the bench I saw,  
Enveloped in scarlet and ermine,  
Sentencing shoals of the lights of the law  
Just as if they were Socialist vermin.

But strangest of all was to see the pews  
Full of parsons in hushed attention,  
While an Atheist fellow put forth such views  
As I really should blush to mention.

The philanthropist they reckon a knave,  
They scorn the professor's learning,  
And the toppers make noble attempts to save  
Blue-ribbon "brands from the burning."

But while I was showing them where they were wrong,  
Less in anger than sorrow and pity,  
I woke, and found I had slept too long,  
And I should be late at the City.

C. W. BECKETT.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

## PROPAGANDA AMONGST THE EAST-END WORKERS.

**COMRADES.**—The members of the East-end branches of the Socialist League, feeling that it is literally true in the present position of European industrialism and politics that no one knows what a year may bring forth, have decided to throw themselves more energetically than ever into the spread of our ideas amongst that huge mass of workers living in all degrees of misery and want in the East-end of London; so that when the chance comes again to us, or any of the other workers in civilisation, as it came to our Paris brothers in 1871, we may not fail here in this centre of the world Capitalism because the workers have not been able to grasp our ideal. Confident in the transparent truth of our ideas, we feel convinced it only requires to place them fairly before the workers to secure, as with ourselves and our Continental brothers, their immediate and enthusiastic adoption by at least a large section. But the system has crushed them into such a deadly state of apathy and indifference that we feel it is necessary to go to and amongst the people instead of expecting them to come to us at our meetings, etc., where, from various reasons, we could not possibly influence more than a fractional part of this huge population. The East-end section of the Socialist League, with the assistance of our foreign comrades living here, have therefore formed—1st, a bill-posting brigade to spread our bills, leaflets, etc., amongst the various courts, yards, and streets; 2nd, volunteer bands for distribution from house to house in all the streets, lanes, etc., of this district a four-page leaflet containing on two pages "What Socialists Want," by W. Morris, on the third a list of some of the cheap pamphlets published by the various Socialist bodies, which will be on sale at all our meetings for those who may be induced to examine the question further, and on the fourth page a list of some 25 or more indoor and outdoor places where we intend holding regular meetings, of course as usual inviting questions and discussions from all who feel difficulties or obligations to accepting the principles of our working for the social revolution. We then intend following up this distribution of leaflets by a similar systematic distribution of pamphlets on the style of the various Christian and temperance tract agencies, leaving a copy at all the houses in a street, then calling for them again in about seven days and taking them to another street, and so on. Of course to do this thoroughly requires perhaps some 400,000 leaflets and a lending stock of not less than 20,000 or 30,000 pamphlets, and workers in proportion. Though fully realising the need for both funds and workers in all directions and on all hands, we feel that the pre-eminent importance of doing such work in such a district quite justifies us in asking all our comrades who can to help us, either by contributing to our fund for the purchase of literature, which, however small, we shall be pleased to receive and acknowledge in the *Weal*, or by the personal assistance of those living in London, either in speaking at our meeting or in helping us in our house-to-house distribution of literature.

While we are still enabled, however hampered by police interference, to carry on an active open agitation, and in view of how throughout Europe the reaction is closing up its ranks, let us not allow our great opportunities to pass us by, but realising fully the duties and responsibilities which rest upon us who live in this transition period, I would strongly urge for help from all to prepare earnestly and enthusiastically amongst the disinherited in this huge ugly centre of capitalism for the coming International Social Revolution, signs of whose approach are even now visible on all hands to those who care to look for them, and thus to encourage and help in perhaps the best and most effective manner our comrades who are maintaining such a hard fight in some other parts of the world.

And especially in view of a threatened anti-foreigner agitation, to urge all our comrades to come and throw themselves heartily into the English propaganda, and show that the international solidarity of Labour is something more than a fine theory.—Yours in the Cause,  
F. CHARLES.  
38 Ainsley Street, Bethnal Green Junction, E.



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

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

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

**MATTER**—Henry Maudsley's works are: 'On the Method of the Study of Mind,' Churchill, 1865; 'Body and Mind,' Macmillan, 1873; 'Responsibility in Mental Disease,' H. S. King, 1874; 'The Physiology of Mind,' Macmillan, 1876; 'The Pathology of Mind,' Macmillan, 1879; 'Natural Causes and Supernatural Seemings,' Kegan Paul, 1886. Every line of every one of them is worth reading; begin with the last. The 'Science' you speak of is the foulest and most insidious form of pandering to epicene sensuality.

UNSUITABLE for various reasons—An Onlooker; J. D. (Alyth); J. S. (Manchester)

Periodicals received during the week ending Wednesday May 9.

ENGLAND Christian Socialist Die Autonomie Leaflet Newspaper London—Frie Presse Norwich—Daylight Personal Rights Journal Railway Review Worker's Friend	Detroit—Der Arme Teufel Douglasville (Ga.)—Roll Call Fort Worth (Tex.)—South West Milwaukee (Wis.)—Volksblatt Arbeiter Zeitung N Haven—Workmen's Advocate Providence (R.I.)—The People St. Louis (Mo.)—Altruist San Francisco (Cal) The People	SWITZERLAND Geneva—Przedurt Zurich—Arbeiterstimme
NEW SOUTH WALES Hamilton—Radical	FRANCE Paris—Cri du Peuple (daily) Journal du Peuple Le Coup de Feu	ITALY Milan—Il Fascio Operario Rome—L'Emancipazione Marsala—La Nuova Eta Cremona—La Freccia
INDIA Bankipore—Behar Herald	HOLLAND Hague—Recht voor Allen	SPAIN Madrid—El Socialista Cadiz—El Socialismo Barcelona—Acracia
UNITED STATES New York—Der Sozialist Truthseeker Volkzeitung Jewish Volkzeitung Boston—Woman's Journal Liberty Chicago—Labor Enquirer Knights of Labor Buffalo—Arbeiter-Zeitung	BELGIUM Seraing (Ougree)—Le Reveil Ghent—Vooruit Antwerp—De Werker Brussels—L'Avant-Garde En Avant Liege—L'Avenir	GERMANY Berlin—Volks Tribune AUSTRIA Arbeiterstimme Wien—Gleichheit HUNGARY Arbeiter-Wochen-Chronik ROMANIA Vittorie Romnic Jassy—Municipiul

## THE NEW "SAVIOUR."

No need to fear Socialism any more! At last the era of universal peace among nations, and the settlement of national disputes by arbitration is at hand. The Lion (of Resolute Government) and the Lamb (of "Christianity") are preparing to lie down together. The growing terror of labour troubles has found a potent enemy, which will quell all disturbances, and the great dread of over-population is drawing near its end. Soon the world will be free to follow up that destiny of evolution, of which Professor Huxley told us in the *Nineteenth Century* some months ago; and the struggle for existence, which is to result in the survival of the fittest, will have free scope.

The Gatling gun is to be the great agency of civilisation, and war (that disease so long impeding the way of progress) is to be cured by homeopathic treatment, on the "hair of the dog that bit you" principle. At least this will be the case so far as concerns civilised countries, i.e., countries whose people labour to support a Government and governing class. For the Gatling gun—that "facile princeps of all modern inventions that pertain to the great science of war"—is such a powerful machine, that we are told in the prospectus: "With it three men can do the work of hundreds armed with ordinary arms. Its use will, to a great extent, supersede the necessity of large armies; hence its use will be in the interest of economy." So that, "with a few hundred Gatlings on each side," says the Indianapolis (U.S.A.) *Sentinel*, "armies would melt away like the dew before the sun" (well enough the press may rise to poetic simile), "and men would have to settle their disputes by arbitration, or some other means less destructive of life." And, as we intimated, Christianity, or at least Philanthropy, may fairly claim its share in this miracle. The *Economist* (U.S.A.) informs us: "Strange as it may seem, humanity prompted Gatling to invent this destructive engine of war. Sick of the suffering in our civil war, he determined to make war short, sharp, and decisive. The Gatling gun is the fruit of that decision."

But how, then, when this happy time is reached, will the Company pay the dividend which is to tempt speculators to invest their money in this wonderful scheme? When war has ceased, what need of engines of war?

Shortsighted people may ask this question, but they need not fear. We mentioned labour troubles, and the question of over-population.

Each of these difficulties will be for a time increased by the cessation of international warfare, since it is evident that those who now compose the great armies of the world, besides the thousands engaged in the manufacture of those arms which will be superseded by the Gatling gun, must find some other occupation, and the effect of their competition will cause serious disturbance in the labour market. Many of them too will be unable to find a honest living, and will join the ranks of the unemployed—that great surplus population which infests our large towns, and is become such a nuisance to respectable and deserving tradespeople, frightening away their trade and lowering their profits. Nevertheless, this competition is necessary for that evolution which is to culminate in the survival of the fittest, of which Professor Huxley has taught. In that struggle the race will be to the strong; to that nation whose working-classes have the best physique to stand against the starvation which over-population renders necessary in order that the upper class may make profit, and competition amongst the workers is the sure way to reach the starvation limit of wages.

But in countries like ours many abuses block the way to this desirable end. In the rights of combination, free speech, public meeting, etc., the lower orders have been lapped so luxuriously, that they have actually begun to imagine that that great law of nature, the struggle for existence, might be ignored by them. Too long has King Mob held sway, until numberless Acts of Parliament extorted by the terror of the people's wrath—from the "Great Reform Act" and earlier, to the "Criminal Law Amendment Act"—have deprived our Old Nobility, and the respectable classes generally, of all their dearest and most sacred privileges.

For this the Gatling Gun Company now has found a remedy. In the "Police Gatling Gun" (so named, we presume, after the heroes of Mitchelstown and Trafalgar Square) a little machine has been invented which will enable our capitalists to compete with foreigners, without fear of strikes, unemployed demonstrations, or any interference of trades' unions and labour parties. With the assistance of this little instrument the workers of England may be compelled to submit to any regulations which the wisdom of their masters may impose; and all meetings, processions, etc., may be put down, and all organisations broken up. To be sure, the prospectus says "every foreign municipality, city, and commune where a police force exists, will find the new Gatling Police Gun of incalculable value"; but that is only the promoters' natural delicacy, and we may rest assured that they would not refuse to supply the authorities at home in case of need.

This wonderful machine (for which, doubtless, there will be a great demand when the necessity for the larger gun no longer exists) "can be charged, pointed, and fired by one man, and will throw about 700 bullets per minute," and "will kill a man a mile distant." The *Broad Arrow* says, "It is at any rate evident that the new model Gatling is a terrible instrument, capable of awful doings on occasion, as for instance when it is desired to sweep the streets in a riot;" and the *United Service Gazette* tells us, "In case of street fighting this gun would be most invaluable. Mounted upon a movable platform upon rollers, protected by shields, and pushed along from the rear, buildings and streets could soon be cleared with little exposure to the men manœuvring the gun. A platform having two guns mounted on it—one to clear the streets and first stories with direct fire, and the other to clear the upper stories, roofs, and parapets by indirect and high angles—would be found very efficacious." Moreover, "A Gatling gun placed in one street can fire over the tops of buildings into a parallel street with great effect, by means of its positive feed device, which makes high-angle or parabolic fire practical."

Rejoice, brave Balfour; and Warren, lift up your head! No more need the Irish constabulary run the risk of appearing at a window and cutting their knuckles with broken glass. Safe in their backyard, the Gatling gun will annihilate the mob of savage murderers howling for blood in the Square round the corner; and a Gatling gun on each of Landseer's lions will mow down the processions of agitators long before they reach Trafalgar Square. Thus, too, the poor rates will be lightened by the destruction of the unemployed, and the English nation, free of the burden of a pauper population, and knowing how to get rid of them as fast as the introduction of labour-saving machinery produces them, may compete successfully with other nations, and Professor Huxley and his class may enjoy their dinners in peace, untroubled by fear of those who are starving. For, paradox though it seem, the new method of establishing our pre-eminence and enriching our own country, is not by slaying our enemies' soldiers but by reducing to the smallest number the producers of wealth at home; the tendency of "Civilisation" being towards the final elimination or extinction of the labouring class, and the survival of the capitalists, who will live, without labour, on the profits made by interchanging their goods with one another.

It was most fitting that this new gospel should appear in the pages of that apostle of liberty and progress, the *Daily News*. And the glorious tidings are already bearing fruit in its columns. What else could have inspired that journal to its courageous onslaught on Cunningham Graham and Keir Hardie, after the Mid-Lanark election (April 27th), but the knowledge that its well-beloved and much-slandered police might soon be rendered invincible by aid of the Gatling gun? Now the leader-writers take courage, strong in the new-acquired faith that "underneath are the everlasting (fire)-arms to bear them up."

Thus then, shall the "facile princeps in the Science of war" give place to a corresponding article in the Science of exploitation. Yet not immediately, for war will still be necessary to open up new markets and to establish a trade with uncivilised peoples. For this purpose

the Gatling gun, "terrible in its power of disabling men," has already proved its adaptability. We read with enthusiasm how "when all was over, and we counted the dead, there lay within a radius of 500 yards 473 'Zulus. They lay in groups in some places of 14 to 30 dead, mowed down by the fire of the Gatling;" or, "Captain Howard, who operated the Gatling . . . with cool daring . . . opening fire, literally mowed the rebels down;" and once more, "This machine gun was too much for them. Skulking under the parapet were found a few poor devils, too frightened to retire, yet willing enough to stab a Christian if helpless and wounded. The trenches were full of dead. But few wounded were found." Think of it, you Christians, and invest your money! For every dead nigger will help to swell your dividends!

So may our Christian traders rush to victory with their new saviour fighting for them in the van, and literally mowing the rebellious heathen down, till, having established their supremacy, they may, with the police Gatling gun force the "devils" (as we observe they are called) to yield up their fancied rights and liberty, and work for them, as the toilers do at home, for starvation wages. Profit will be made, and the kingdom of Capitalism will be established.

Only let the authorities take heed in time. Not only are the Social Democrats spreading disaffection in the army itself, but all over the country Socialists are teaching the discontented masses that all that machinery (which their forefathers foolishly thought was going to injure them) belongs to them. Should they be allowed to learn the lesson the consequences will be terrible indeed, involving a complete subversion of the present beneficent system, accompanied by a repetition of the scenes of the Paris Commune. For, in accordance with the Socialist teaching, the masses would seize the Gatling guns with the other machinery; the power of capitalism would be at an end, and they would turn round upon the aristocracy, taunting them with being over-population, and bidding them emigrate or work for their living. For this sort of thing a remedy must be applied speedily and rigorously, without any sham sentiment of pity for the idle vagabonds and discontented workmen who would plunge our beloved country into the horrors of Revolution. To avoid bloodshed the authorities should acquire Gatlings, and use them remorselessly on the slightest occasion. Too long have the Socialist agitators had it their own way, and we know no better argument to meet their pernicious doctrines than that provided by the "Police Gatling Gun." GEORGE STURT.

## NOTES FROM SCOTLAND.

THE Prince of Wales and his wife will visit Glasgow this week.

A state carriage with six horses will be specially brought down from London for the occasion. They will probably be used for a couple of hours.

Here, in our "dark, sea-born city, with its throne set on a surge-vexed shore," as Robert Buchanan, in his 'Exhibition Ode,' so poetically describes what to ordinary sight appears a flat wilderness of chimney-stacks and steeples, set eighteen miles inland, by the side of a filthy river and beneath a smoke-laden atmosphere, thousands of well-to-do and otherwise sensible people are having sleepless nights wondering how they will appear and how they will behave themselves in the presence of a man whose intellectual achievements mainly consist in the selection of his cigars, and who is chiefly distinguished as an amiable patron of pugilists and professional beauties.

The Prince—always intent, however, in doing really useful work—comes to open the International Exhibition. Great manifestations of popular loyalty are in active preparation, consisting mainly of cheap Turkey-red bannerets and benevolent mottoes painted on cotton adulterated 60 per cent.

I know of several Socialists and Fenians who are in the decoration line, and who are making quite a good thing out of meeting the popular demand for quaint and touching words of welcome to the royal pair.

£3,000 are to be expended by the Corporation to barricade the streets and otherwise prepare the way for the coming of his Royal Highness.

When the starving unemployed ask the Corporation for relief, the treasury is, strangely enough, invariably found to be empty; but when a brace of well-fed and gorgeously-attired unemployed members of royalty condescend to visit the city, the treasury forthwith becomes miraculously replenished to overflowing. Whether the miracle be of God or the Devil it is deemed blasphemy for poor wretches like us to inquire.

On the opening day the creator of the universe is to receive an express tribute of praise, given, too, under the immediate patronage and presence of his Royal Highness, in honor of the event. No doubt the various exhibitors will commingle with the solemn sounds of "Praise ye the Lord" and the affluence of the princely presence, devout thoughts of how much filthy lucre the expensive speculation will perchance bring into their money-bags.

The Glasgow United Trades' Council—in which, I am glad to say, there are several good Socialists—recently passed a resolution asking working men to boycott the Exhibition, because the council of the Exhibition refused to grant season tickets of admission to artisans at reduced rates. The local newspapers jeered the Trades' Council for

behaving so foolishly, and scolded the members for their impudence and want of patriotism. Of course the boycott will be inoperative. The Trades' Council has little or no influence in social or even trades' matters, and is not likely to have so long as it is composed chiefly of capitalist funkeys and self-seeking wire-pullers.

The Mid-Lanarkshire election has resulted in the triumphant return of the official Liberal candidate and the total defeat of Mr. Keir Hardie, the labour candidate. Mr. Hardie especially appealed to the miners. His programme was a most advanced one; he frankly avowed himself a Socialist, and was gallantly supported by Mr. Conybeare, M.P., Mr. Cunningham Graham, M.P., as well as H. H. Champion, Tom Mann, J. L. Mahon, A. K. Donald (Socialists), and a host of Land Restorers and extreme Radicals. The Irish vote, as a matter of course, was given to the official Liberal. Only a small portion, however, of the miners can have voted for Mr. Hardie, as his total vote was only 617, while that of Mr. Bousfield, the Unionist, was 2,917 and that of Mr. Philips, the Gladstonian, 3,847.

Although not expressly standing as a Socialist, his Socialist utterances and the support he received from known Socialists constituted Mr. Hardie, in the eyes of the electors and the public, a Socialist. The result is therefore instructive to us.

It is bad policy, when advising a stranger that the road you are going to take is also the quickest road for him, to invite him at the outset to give your donkey-cart a shove up the hill. Yet this is exactly what our Socialist and semi-Socialist friends did in promoting the candidature of Mr. Hardie. Membership of Parliament is a much-coveted position; and when you endeavour to persuade working people that your notion of what their interests are is by far the best, and forthwith invite them to assist you or your "excellent friend" into that high place of privilege and power, working people are naturally apt to suspect there is a deal of humbug in the affair. And so there was in the labour contest in Mid-Lanark.

Mr. Hardie is, so far as I can ascertain, a straightforward and honest working man, and that he is really anxious to benefit his fellow-workers I believe; but that he or his friends were well advised in believing that to contest a seat in Parliament was the first and best means of accomplishing that end, it did not require last week's election to disprove.

The Lanarkshire miners are a very democratic body. Socialist teaching has been received by them with marvellous favour, and many of them are declared Socialists. Yet it must not be forgotten that except in revolutionary times, men's opinions, however sincere, are not readily translated into action, especially when that action is directed against habits and prejudices of all their former course of life. People persist often in remaining in their old homes, damp and unwholesome though they be, even after they have well-nigh got their death by rheumatics and typhoid fever. A man, too, may learn that his family lawyer has been systematically defrauding him for years, and yet hesitate for some time, even when the peculations are repeated, to send the culprit to gaol.

These may, indeed, be weak points in human nature, but we must take them into account, even as our enemy the newspaper editor adviseth us to do unceasingly.

We must let the seed lie in the ground for a season before we can expect to reap any harvest, and it is well to see that our sickles are sharp before we begin. There is a time and a place for everything; or, as our facetious friend Brown puts it, never try to kiss a girl on her mother's doorstep—wait till she comes fairly out in the lane.

I trust this attempt to force Socialism prematurely into the strife of "practical politics" and the rut of party contest will not prejudice the miners of Lanarkshire against listening to or accepting our teaching upon its own merits in future. If we wish really to rouse the people to do great deeds, we must be wary not to sully our banner with the personal ambition, subterfuge, insincerity, and compromise inherent in party politics, but with a bold idealistic aim endeavor to stir up the better sympathies and nobler impulses of the people towards resolute, wise, and irresistible revolutionary effort. J. BRUCE GLASIER.

## DEFINITIONS.

**CAPITALIST.**—One who becomes clothed with legal rights over the land, or over the man, which authorise him to take from the labourer or from the land the fruits of industry, to the production of which he has not contributed.

**INTEREST.**—A fraudulent claim of one party to an exchange, by which a charge is made for the "flight of time" between the inception and the completion of an exchange; or it is a charge for having a value conserved, and for which service compensation is due, not to the creditor, but to the debtor.

**PROFIT.**—A false entry in the business ledger, in which a dealer charges twice for the same thing. Firstly, for the service he has rendered; and, secondly, for a profit on the goods he has sold his customer. The charge which compensates all the service rendered is not profit, nor is such increase of price as may be required to average risks, and guard against losses unavoidable to the business.

**RENT.**—"An immoral tax"; a tribute for privilege to be, to labour, or to exercise the right and duty of Use. It is similar to profit and interest, and constitutes the basis on which they both depend.

**USURY.**—The same as interest. The law which attempts to distinguish between them has no ethical, economic, or logical basis; one, or one hundred per cent. being the same in nature, and only differing in degree.—J. K. Ingalls, 'Social Wealth.'

# THE LABOUR STRUGGLE.

BRITAIN.

The platers at Stockton shipyards have given notice for a demand of 12½ per cent. advance in wages.

The operative section of the Midland Iron and Steel Wages Board have given a month's notice of their intention to claim an advance of wages.

The Bolton master cotton-spinners on Wednesday evening refused the application for an advance of 5 per cent. It was agreed to support the Oldham masters, in the event of a strike there, by working short time in Bolton.

**BACUP WEAVERS.**—The weavers of Bacup have held a meeting and resolved to form an association. Not before it was wanted, according to reports of the arbitrary conduct of some of the employers.

**STRIKE OF JEWISH TAILORS.**—Twelve hundred Jews engaged in the tailoring trade at Leeds decided on Saturday to strike against their excessively long hours of labour. They will also endeavour to compel their employers to accept "society shops." The men demand that the hours of labour shall not exceed fifty-eight per week.

**EMPLOYERS CLAIMING £1000 DAMAGES.**—The proprietors of the Pantig Steel Works, South Wales, have issued a writ against the workmen now on strike, claiming £1000 damages for stopping the works. In the Rhondda Valley over 600 men employed at the Allyn Collieries have brought up their tools from the pits owing to a wages dispute with the employers.

**OLDHAM VELVET LIST.**—On Thursday afternoon last week Messrs. T. Birtwhistle, J. P., David Holmes, Abraham Bulkley, Joshua Barrows, and W. H. Wilkinson met by arrangement the representatives of the Oldham Cotton Spinners and Manufacturers' Association, at the rooms of the latter, and came to a settlement. The basis list will come into operation on June 1st, but the extras will not take effect before the 1st of September, on which date a further meeting will be held to consider whether the time is opportune.

**BOLTON—A THOUGHTFUL (?) FIRM.**—At a certain mill of the town the following extraordinary notice has been posted: "Savings for Whit-week and stoppage.—These mills and sheds will stop at Whit-week for four weeks for repairs. We insist on everyone putting in the bank each week not less than 15 per cent. of their earnings, or 3s. for each pound received in wages. Anyone wishing to be exempt must get a certificate stating cause from either a minister of religion or a doctor, and this must also be signed by the overlooker and the manager.—By order." Next?—*Cotton Factory Times.*

**STALYBRIDGE—A DREADFUL SCARE.**—At a certain mill in this district, which is peculiarly situated, there are only two ways of access, and the back entrance has been closed for a couple of weeks. One day last week a very tall, shabby-genteel sort of person, with a tall, fine-looking silk hat on his head, was seen going at full speed down the road, which is nearly a quarter of a mile long, at about twenty minutes to one, and the signal was given that the inspector was coming, and the officials and spinners were busying themselves in getting out the piercers, and the females in the cardroom, but on the arrival of the "inspector" it turned out to be an old hat cleaner, who, it is said, was ordered off about his business.—*Cotton Factory Times.*

Grievous complaints are being made with respect to the London and North-Western Railway Company's Pension Fund, the rules of which are evidently framed on anything but a fair and considerate basis. The principal matter complained of is that while those men whom the company discharge from its service are, on dismissal, refunded their share in the fund, less a small amount for management, those who leave the service of their own accord have to forfeit every penny they have paid in, thus placing the man who may have honestly served the company for a number of years, and who leaves it for the purpose of accepting a better situation, at a disadvantage as compared with the man who, through neglect of duty or gross misconduct, receives his discharge.—*Railway Review.*

**WEDNESBURY PUDDLERS.**—The puddlers at the Patent Shaft and Axletree Company's works at Wednesbury were this week "at play," with the view of getting an alteration of the rule which requires a week's wages to be left in hand. It will be remembered that last week the men agreed to a general reduction amounting in the case of puddlers to 2½ per cent., and in the case of millmen to the usual proportionate reduction, stipulating at the same time that as they had come down to country rates they should work according to country rules instead of according to special rules. The keeping of a week's wages in hand is regarded as a non-compliance with the stipulation, and hence the abstention of the puddlers from work, and the consequent enforced idleness of other branches of workmen.

**THE WROUGHT NAIL TRADE.**—In consequence of the disorganised state of the operatives in the wrought nail trade in the Sedgley, Halesowen, Rowley, Old Hill, Dudley, Netherton, and Cradley districts, coupled with the underselling which is taking place, a large number of operatives were on Saturday called upon to submit to a reduction of 10 per cent. in wages. The workmen state they cannot possibly get a living at the reduced prices, and there is every probability that another disastrous strike will be resorted to. Arrangements have been made for a conference of employers and workmen to be held at Old Hill, Rowley Regis, on the 14th inst., to consider the question of wages in the various branches of the nail trade, and an effort will be made to adopt revised lists of prices.

**TRADE UNIONISTS DISPENSED WITH.**—A strike of steelworkers is threatened at Darlington, owing to the Darlington Steel and Iron Company objecting to their men belonging to the Steelworkers' Association, which has its headquarters at Middlesbrough. A notice has been issued by the managers intimating that the company would dispense with the services of the men who had joined the Steelworkers' Association. A meeting of the men was at once held, and addressed by some of the workmen. Mr. H. Linden, the President of the Association, also spoke, and deprecated the effort of the company to break up the Union, stating that the men at Darlington were entitled to higher wages, although wages had not come into question. It remains to be seen what action will be taken.

**FEMALE LABOUR IN THE BLACK COUNTRY.**—On Wednesday a meeting of the members of the Midland Trades' Federation was held at the Castle Hotel, Dudley; Mr. Z. Taylor presiding. Nailmakers from several districts attended, as did also tube-makers, miners, nut and bolt-makers, chain-makers, rivet-makers, lock-filers, and others. Mr. Juggins advocated the abolition of female labour in the nail and chain trades so as to find work for the men who were wandering about begging for work. A bill was to be introduced into the House providing for the non-employment of women at heavy nails

and chains, and closing their shops at six o'clock, the same as factories. A Nailier said women frequently worked till nine o'clock at night, and then had to wash and iron until one o'clock in the morning. A Gas Tube-maker said it was a demoralising sight to see females at work over fires, and only partially dressed. All workmen ought to be able to maintain their wives and children without compelling the former to work. A list of subjects for discussion at the conference on the 14th inst. was set down as follows:—Discussion on the price list, female labour, the question of carriage, truck, and payment for the use of tools.

**NUT AND BOLT TRADE.**—The strike in the nut and bolt trade continues, this being the sixteenth week. Mr. Juggins has brought the matter under the notice of the Midland Counties Trades' Federation, and in response to his appeal a grant of £10 has been made. A public meeting in connection with the strike was held at Darlaston last Friday. Mr. R. Juggins presided, and explained that the matter they had met to discuss was one of great importance to the greater part of South Staffordshire. In 1872, and for several years after, it was customary for the employers to meet and arrange lists of prices, which as a rule were adhered to, but since 1881 he regretted that many of the employers in Darlaston had systematically violated the list of prices, the reductions enforced being from 10 to 25 per cent. In order to give the employers a chance of meeting and discussing the matter amicably conferences had been called, but the employers had treated them with contempt. Consequently the men must now act, and the result of a ballot among the men showed that it was sufficient to warrant a general strike at those factories where wages had been reduced. They were not asking for a rise, but for the restitution of that which had been taken from them. After several speakers had referred to the disgraceful way in which the workers had been served, it was eventually decided to give notice of a general strike in shops where the 1881 list was not in vogue, commencing May 19th.

**INTENSIFICATION OF LABOUR—EVILS OF PIECEWORK.**—One of the results of the development of machinery under the competitive system of industry is the increased facilities afforded for the robbery of labour by the employers. And the worst of it is that the workers are often unconscious agents of their plunderers and themselves provide the very means by which they are fleeced. An illustration of this fact is afforded by the action of the managers of several spinning companies in Oldham, who, in order to discount the proposed 5 per cent. advance, have given their spinners notice of a revision in their prices. The reason assigned is that the mules are running at a quicker speed than when the prices were last agreed upon. In some cases, we are told the prices are being reduced because the spinners by their own efforts have increased the speed of their mules about a couple of seconds in three stretches. That is to say, the men are pushed and stimulated to get out a large production of yarn, and then when by the utmost ingenuity they manage to increase the speed of their mules by a couple of seconds in the space of 364 inches, which the mules travel in a given time, they are to be denied the trifling benefits which result from their vigilance, although the employers reap all the advantage of the increased production at no extra charge. It is stated, however—and no wonder—that a strike will be ordered at every mill where the prices are reduced, unless there has been some change made in the driving department.

**THE SWEATING SYSTEM.—DRIVEN MAD BY MISERY.**—A correspondent living in the district and acquainted with the circumstances requests me to publish the following lamentable illustration of our commercial civilisation, based as it is upon the "sweating" system:—"A poor young Jew, who had a wife and two children to support, has been employed at the tailoring factory of Mr. K—, in Bethnal Green, East London, where he earned 1s. per day for working as sleeve lining feller, from early in the morning till late at night. Last Saturday week, his brother noticing a great melancholy on his face asked him the reason, and received the reply, 'Why, look at my clothes, my boots; see the horrible state of my poor family.' His brother offered him a few shillings to buy boots, but the unfortunate man refused to accept unearned money. Last Tuesday the man became mad, and is now in the hospital. In consequence of that the Christian manufacturer ordered a bill to be stuck at the workshop (as the employees are mostly foreign Jews, it was written in the Hebrew-German dialect) calling on the workpeople to contribute towards a subscription for the family of the victim, himself giving the capital donation of two shillings and sixpence. The employees, as it may be imagined, could hardly afford to give more than one or two pence. In this factory, it may be interesting to know, military, police, and post-office uniforms are manufactured." T. BINNING.

## NEW YORK LABOUR BUREAU REPORT.

In the Fifth Annual Report of the Labour Bureau of New York State, recently issued, the most remarkable feature is the strong position which the Commissioner of the Labour Bureau takes against the oft repeated assertion that strikes do no good. He looks upon the strike as an established factor in our competitive industrial system, and proceeds to show wherein and how strikes have been instrumental in improving the condition of the workers. Strikes he contends have helped to raise wages, to shorten the hours of toil, to improve the condition not only of the particular workmen going out on strike but of the masses in general. He instances the bakers as having reduced their hours of labour from eighteen to twelve per day. Wages in whole trades have been raised from 10 to 20 per cent, because the men in certain shops have struck and forced their claims to recognition. Even a lost strike he claims is not always a dead loss but often a positive and material benefit. While the employer may not feel the pinch of poverty through the stoppage of the works he must feel anxious about maturing bills and the prospects of loss of trade through such stoppage. Strikes, even unsuccessful in immediate results, always teach a valuable lesson, and with the fear of its repetition before him, has forced many a taskmaster to do tardy justice.

**"EDUCATION!"**—What result can be expected from the education of children in the Board Schools when a great light of the educational world writes such nonsense as follows for the guidance of teachers. He is speaking of moral training and how important it is, "the relation of employer and labourer, a clear understanding of what capital is, and of the fact that wages are paid out of capital (and the consequent importance of holding sacred the rights of property, of rejoicing in the accumulations of others) . . . the advantages, in some cases the duty of emigration" should be "properly handled by the schoolmaster." This is written by S. S. Laurie, Professor of Education in the University of Edinburgh. It seems high time that intelligent workmen should administer the Education Acts themselves and prevent such humbug being taught their children.—D.

REVOLUTIONARY CALENDAR.

WEEK ENDING MAY 19, 1888.

13	Sun.	1848. Insurrection in Vienna.
14	Mon.	1771. Robert Owen born. 1820. Henry Grattan died. 1885. Louis Riel captured.
15	Tues.	1820. Henry Hunt sentenced for sedition. 1847. Dan O'Connell died. 1848. Trial of Smith O'Brien for sedition. 1871. Russian police armed with revolvers. 1881. Second secret press of the <i>Will of the People</i> captured with bloodshed.
16	Wed.	1848. Trial of T. F. Meagher and John Mitchel for sedition. 1871. Vendome Column destroyed. 1882. Prosecution of the <i>Freiheit</i> for article on Phenix Park murder.
17	Thur.	1802. Action of John Hevey against Major Sirr for assault and false imprisonment. 1880. Trial of Dr. Weimar.
18	Fri.	1756. War declared against the King of France by George II., "King of Great Britain, France, and Ireland."
19	Sat.	1796. P. T. Lemaître and others tried for treason. 1825. St. Simon died. 1886. Strikes in Belgium.

*Henry Grattan.*—Born in Dublin, July 3, 1746; died in London, June 4, 1820. "The man who led the van of the Irish volunteers," and who, speaking of Irish Independence, could say, "I watched by its cradle; I followed its hearse," was essentially a Conservative, but, like so many other Irish Conservatives, was forced into a quasi-revolutionary attitude by the necessity of combating the English Government. During his long life he placed no blot upon his fair fame; those who went beyond him and those who did not go so far, confessed his worth alike. His marvellous oratorical power was always employed for the right, fearlessly and without ceasing. He fought furiously against the Union, and when it was carried said, "Finding all useless, we retire with safe consciences but breaking hearts." However, his heart did not break enough to make him cease fighting, for he kept on until his death, and then died in an effort to get once more to the House of Commons to speak for freedom.—S.

*Death of Daniel O'Connell.*—The "Liberator" was the descendant of a very old Irish family, and was born at Carben, near Cahirciveen, on August 6, 1775. In 1773, English authority met a rebuff in America. Boston harbour was covered with tea; then the trouble began which resulted April, 1775, in the battle of Lexington "first blood," which ended in the "Republic of America." Law'n'-order got a scare, and began to think that possibly some nearer home might conceive of revolt, so as a sop, a trifle of amelioration in the position of Roman Catholics was graciously permitted, after much talk, to become law. This "sop" seems to have entered into the dietary of baby O'Connell with his other sop, for he was fated repeatedly to damn his immense possibilities later in life by accepting any "sop" offered by any "expedient mongers" in power for the time being. Daniel and his brother Maurice were adopted by an uncle, and at thirteen he was sent to school; does not seem to have been in any way a remarkable scholar, although it is on record that when four years old he learned the alphabet in "an hour and a half." After a year in this school he was sent to the Continent, staying one year at the College at St. Omer, 1791-92, then for a short term at the English College at Douay. The Revolution troubles drove him to England; and the excesses and horrors of which he says "seeming to make him a confirmed aristocrat in feeling"; this later on was shown to be not very confirmed. In 1798, O'Connell was called to the bar and soon made a name, and in not a very long time a large income. But for the Emancipation Act of 1793, O'Connell, a Roman Catholic, could not have been called. His first speech as a public man was in opposition to the Union, a tolerably risky experiment. This speech was made in Dublin Royal Exchange, January 13, 1800. In 1802 he married. In 1806 he made his power felt in things political by carrying his views in favour of agitation, in opposition to Keogh, who believed in waiting in "dignified silence" on the good favours of Lord Granville and the Whigs. In 1810 the Dublin Corporation were active in asking for Repeal, and at one meeting O'Connell exposed his expediency notions, "I trample under foot the Catholic claims if they can interfere with Repeal; I abandon all wish for Emancipation if it delays Repeal. Nay, were Mr. Perceval to-morrow to offer me the Repeal of the Union, upon the terms of re-enacting the *entire Penal Code*, I declare from my heart, and in the presence of my God, that I would most cheerfully embrace his offer." In 1823 he founded the "Irish Catholic Association," on May 12th. Forty-seven names being given in to start an organisation, which it is claimed "struck the chains off seven millions of people in six years from its formation." Whether it really did so or not, may perhaps be doubted in presence of Irish affairs to-day. (See *Commonweal* April 7th and 28th for notes practically dealing with this same matter, and unnecessary to repeat.) In 1824, on Dec. 17th, he made a speech in which, speaking of Bolivar and the South-American Revolution and the London *Barricader's* sympathy for the Greek Revolution, he used words in favour of armed resistance, for which he was prosecuted by the Government. The proceedings ended in fizzle, the grand jury ignoring the bills Jan. 4, 1825. In 1825 Session opened Feb. 3, and one of the very earliest businesses was for the Irish Secretary Goulburn to bring in a bill to put down the Catholic Association. A deputation was sent over from Ireland with the hope of being heard at the bar of the House, but permission for this was refused by 222 against 89, "quite English you know." The Bill for suppression passed by 253 to 107. This bit of work O'Connell called the "Algerine Act." As a sop he was allowed to draft the Emancipation Bill, but he was shamefully juggled by the tricksters in power. When the "Algerine Act" snuffed out the Catholic Association, O'Connell at once began a new Association, and brought the resources of his whole legal knowledge to bear in drafting a constitution which should evade the Act of suppression. The new Association began business July 16, 1825, so not much time was lost. At the General Election of 1826 the Irish party scored well, Louth, Armagh, and Waterford being conspicuous examples in the defeats given to immense territorial influence. 1828 began a busy year by putting into practice an idea of Richard Lalor Sheil's of simultaneous meetings; two thousand meetings convened for January 13th attended, it is computed, by five millions of persons; this discount by the way an idea just recently claimed as quite new. This must have given "Law'n'-Order" a shock, but must have been a trifle compared with that felt when O'Connell in July was elected against Vesey Fitzgerald, who had to be re-elected by reason of taking office as President of the Board of Trade. To beat a member of the Cabinet by 2057 votes to 982, out of a total of only 3000, was something to make any Government sit-up, and did, as the defeated man wrote to his master, Sir Robert Peel, "open a tremendous prospect." It was not until May 15, 1829, that O'Connell formally presented himself to claim his seat, whereupon at once was exposed one of the petty tricks in which bartered bigotry delights; a clause was inserted in the Emancipation Act which allowed the Speaker to demand O'Connell should take the *old oaths*. As O'Connell had gained his seat solely on account and solely for the purpose of not taking the *old oaths*, he refused; Brougham suggested O'Connell should be called to the table to plead his case; after discussion it was decided he should be heard at the bar, and his speech is a legal argument covering fourteen pages of "Hansard." After a discussion the House decided in favour of bigotry by 190 votes for administering the *old oaths*, 116 voting against them. O'Connell returned to Clare,

was re-elected, and this election being after the passing of the Act he conquered. As popular lawyer and leader of Irish politics his time must have been pretty well filled, added to which in 1841 he was sworn in as the first Lord Mayor of Dublin under the New Corporation Act, and yet in spite of this he was for some time a considerable power among English Democrats, taking a very busy part in the Chartist agitation. (See Chartist notes.) His election as mayor about dates the top of his power, for now, after being played with by the tricksters in power with promises never meant to be fulfilled, he commenced a busy Repeal agitation. His ideas were opposed by Isaac Butt, who was to prove the most important leader of Irishmen. There had also been growing up a strong physical force party, and perhaps this it was which made O'Connell talk somewhat more forcibly than had been his wont. He went so far as to almost fix a date for the Repeal of the Union. A meeting was fixed to be held at Clontarf, Oct. 5, 1843, Sunday; about 4 o'clock Saturday afternoon it was proclaimed. A shameful farce called a trial followed, and instead of Repeal and College Parliament House, Connell was in prison. On appeal to House of Lords the verdict was reversed, but O'Connell's prestige was gone; the enormous strain and excitement of his life broke down his health. The end was not immediate. Peel managed to buy the Vatican, this helped to weaken O'Connell; for a time the physical force party had great sway during 1846-7-8. On April 3, 1846, his last important speech in the House, but continued attendance some ten months more, speaking for the last time in February, 1847, and the day after broke down, was ordered abroad, and died at Genoa, May 15, 1847. He is buried in Glasnevin Cemetery, Ireland. As an interesting fact it may be noted that in Carpenter's 'Political Letters', it is recorded, No. 22, Feb. 18, 1831, that meeting in the shop of Ridgway, the bookseller in Piccadilly, with Thomas Hardy, on being introduced he took Hardy's hand, saying, "You are the very man who was instrumental in my conversion. I had just returned from France... opinions and connections all of the Tory cast. I attended with great interest to the nine days' trial (for treason), and by the end of that trial my political opinions and principles were completely changed to those of a reformer."—T. S.

*Action against Major Sirr.*—This is a good illustration of what has gone on in Ireland, and is now not quite unknown there. In 1798, Major Sirr, from utter obscurity blazed forth as the most skilful and cold-blooded suborner of perjury and arranger of judicial murder that even English rule had ever produced. Mr. Hevey had, by accident, been able to incur his enmity by exposing an informer who had been in Mr. Hevey's employ and shown himself a rascal. Soon after he had Hevey abducted and imprisoned without trial, and without warrant or anything else. Kept in prison along with other unfortunates until one of them had been tortured into "denouncing" him, Hevey was then tried by court-martial and sentenced to death. Chance brought the record before Cornwallis; even he recoiled from the stupid and malignant barbarity of the proceedings, and he struck out the sentence and ordered the prisoner's release. Three years after Hevey was in a Dublin coffee-house; Sirr was there also, and seeing his intended victim began abusing him, and saying he should have been hanged. The natural retort was made that he was a slanderous scoundrel, whereupon the same game was at once played, and Hevey again haled off to prison without warrant. Offered freedom at the price of "abject submission" he again and again refused, in spite of many trials and tortures, but was at length subdued by the entreaties of his relatives, signed an "apology" and was released. He soon made use of his freedom to bring an action against Sirr for assault and false imprisonment. Curran was his advocate, and made a splendid ringing speech, smashed up the hostile witnesses in cross-examination, and secured a verdict for the plaintiff—damages £150 with costs.—S.

*Trial of P. T. Lemaître and others.*—See note last week on trial of Crossfield. These trials and many others of equal or greater interest are reported in full in Howell's 'State Trials,' which are on the reference shelves of the British Museum.—S.

*Dr. Weimar.*—This man, who was the hero as a doctor of the Russo-Turkish war, rendered assistance to Solovieff in his attempt upon Alexander II., and was sentenced to 20 years in the mines therefor. He died in the mines in 1882.—T.C.R.

*The Seven Years' War.*—Although the people at large have had little real interest in the quarrels of bellicose monarchs, except to pay the piper, the great duel between Louis the Well-Beloved and Georgius Secundus, the "snuffy old drone from the German hive," was of the utmost ultimate utility to the proletariat, the Seven Years' War being the cause of both the American and French Revolutions, whereby the two grandsons and immediate successors of this brace of combative kings lost, the one his head, and the other half the realm, under circumstances which laid the foundation of the modern avowed acceptance of the doctrine of the "rights of man," which every honest reformer is trying to-day to work out to a logical conclusion.—L. W.

THE SOCIALIST LEAGUE.

OFFICES: 13 FARRINGTON ROAD, E.C.

**Annual Conference.**—The Fourth Annual Conference of the Socialist League will be held at 13 Farrington Road, on Whit-Sunday, May 20. The time of meeting will be as follows—Morning, 10 till 1; Afternoon, 2 till 5; Evening, 6 till business is concluded. All members attending Conference must, before admittance, produce card of membership. Branches are particularly requested to supply their delegates with written mandates. Provender—Comrades wishing provision to be made for them are requested to send in their names at once.

**Branch Subscriptions Paid.**—1887: Hastings, Nottingham, Pelsall—None. Croydon, Glasgow, Leeds, Merton—to end of March. Ipswich (?), Norwich (?), —to end of May. Hull—to end of September. Mitcham, Wednesday—to end of October. Edinburgh—to end of November. 1888:—Marylebone—to end of January. Acton, Bloomsbury, Bradford, Clerkenwell, Hammersmith, Hackney, Leicester, L.E.L. (Hoxton), Oxford, Stamford Hill, Walsall—to end of March. Fulham, North London, Mile-end—to end of April.

"COMMONWEAL" PRINTING FUND.

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

REPORTS.

**BLOOMSBURY.**—On Thursday, W. H. Utley lectured on "The Progress and Prospect of Socialism in England." On Sunday morning a meeting was held at Ossulston Street.

**CLERKENWELL.**—On Wednesday, May 2, H. H. Sparling lectured on "Early Closing." Good discussion followed.—B.

**FULHAM.**—Tuesday evening, Catterton Smith and Bullock held meeting opposite Liberal Club. Sunday morning, Mahony and McCormack spoke to good audience; in evening in rooms Tochiatti lectured on "Human Nature and Socialism."—S. B. G.

**HACKNEY.**—A very successful meeting was addressed at the Salmon and Bal on Sunday morning, by Cores, Sanuels, and Davis.

HYDE PARK.—A very large gathering assembled here on Sunday afternoon: Cantwell, Brookes, Donald, Banner, and Parker were the Socialist speakers, opposition being given by Murphy and Connor; 2s. 8d. collected. *Commonweal* sold well.

MIRCHAM.—A good meeting on the Fair Green Sunday morning, addressed by Eden and Kitz. Good sale of *Commonweal*. We intend holding a debating class in club-room every Thursday at 8.30 p.m.—G.

NORTH LONDON.—A good meeting was held at Regent's Park on Sunday morning. Cantwell, Nicoll, and Henderson were the speakers. Whelan offered opposition; 8s. 4d. collected.

STAMFORD HILL.—An excellent meeting was held here on Sunday evening by Lane, Charles, and Parker. Many questions were put and answered to the satisfaction of a large majority of the audience. Two new members made.

GLASGOW.—Report for last week's issue not sent through inadvertence. On the Sunday a very successful meeting was held at Paisley Road, and Glasier lectured in the Secularist Hall on "Equality, Social and Physical." Last Sunday, Glasier lectured to the Townshend Branch of the National League, where the papal manifesto was denounced with refreshing vigour by one Irishman after another. In the evening we held our usual meeting at Paisley Road Toll; there was a good audience.

NORWICH.—Friday last good meeting held on St. Catherine's Plain; Sunday morning meeting at St. Faith's by Houghton and Darley. Comrade Sparling, of London, assisted us in the morning at two outdoor meetings, Market Place and Catton; in afternoon a mass meeting in Market Place, largest held since Mowbray's release; Sparling met with a splendid reception, Mowbray also took part. In evening another outdoor meeting in Market Place, addressed by Poynts and Mowbray. At Gordon Hall, Sparling lectured on "The Blind Samson," hall packed, Morley in chair. The branch is making very rapid progress, on Sundays carrying on five and six meetings. Special effort will be made to carry on active work during the summer, and to push the *Commonweal*.

WALSALL.—Monday, Deakin and Sanders spoke at indoor meeting; Saturday open-air meeting on The Bridge addressed by Sanders, Tarn (Birmingham), and Deakin. Sunday morning, Sanders and Deakin addressed meeting of several hundred ironworkers and miners on the West Bromwich Road. The audience was most attentive and enthusiastic, requesting us to pay them a weekly visit.—J. T. D.

L.E.L. CLUB AND INSTITUTE.—On Sunday evening last, F. Henderson lectured to a large audience on "Socialism and the English Poets." The lecture was much appreciated. This institute is making good progress, and extra premises have had to be taken to accommodate its members. In the morning good meeting was held at Hoxton Church, the proceedings throughout being extremely lively, owing to the presence of an anti-Socialist local magnate.—H. A. B.

UNITED RADICAL CLUB.—On Sunday evening last, H. A. Barker began a course of four lectures at the United Radical Club, Kay Street, Hackney Road, on "Socialism, what it is and what it is not." The lecture was well received, and followed by good discussion.

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 May 10, at 8.30. A. K. Donald, "History of Land-Holding in England." 17th. Concert in aid of Branch—Programmes 6d. 24th. Business Meeting. 31st. G. B. Shaw, a lecture. June 7. Dr. E. B. Aveling, "Evolution and Socialism."
Olerkenwell.—Hall of the Socialist League, 13 Farringdon Rd., E.C. Business meeting every Sunday at 7. Sunday May 13, at 8 p.m. sharp, A Dramatic and Musical Entertainment. Wednesday May 16, at 8.30. Wm. Blundell, "Revolution, Educational or Bloody, which?"
Fulham.—8 Effie Road, Walham Green. Sunday May 13, at 8 p.m., H. Halliday Sparling, "The Last Revolution."
Hackney.—28 Percy Terrace, Victoria Road, Hackney Wick.
Hammersmith.—Kelmscott House, Upper Mall, W. Sunday at 8.
Hoxton.—Labour Emancipation League Club and Institute, 1 Hoxton Square (near Shoreditch Ch.). Sunday May 13, at 8 p.m., W. C. Wade, "The Communist Manifesto."
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.
North London.—The business meetings will be held on Friday evenings at the Anonomie 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.
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. M. Cluskey, 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.
Galashiels (Scot Sect).—J. Walker, 6 Victoria St., sec.
Gallatin and Dysart (Scottish Section: Fife).—Meet every Tuesday at 7 p.m. in Gallatown Public School. Secretary, A. Paterson, 152 Rosslyn St.
Glasgow.—84 John St. Reading-room open 10 a.m. till 10 p.m. daily. On Sunday first, at 6.30, a meeting will be held to give instructions to delegates at the forthcoming Conference. Members earnestly urged to turn up.
Leeds.—Clarendon Buildings, Victoria Rd. and Front Row. Open every evening. Business meeting Saturdays at 8 p.m. communications to T. Paylor, 11 Sheldon Street, Holbeck, Leeds.
Leicester.—Hosiery Union, Horsefair St. Fridays at 8.
Lochjelly (Scottish Section: Fife).—Secs. (pro tem), John Greig and Hugh Conway, The Square.
Norwich.—Gordon Hall. Monday next, open from 8 until 10.30. Tuesday, Members meeting at 8.30. Wednesday, 8.30, Ways and Means and Literary Committees. Thursday, open from 8 until 10.30. Saturday, Co-operative Clothing Association. Sunday, Lecture at 8.
Nottingham.—Club and Reading Rooms, 1 Tokenhouse Yard, Bridlesmith Gate, open every evening. Lectures and Discussions every Sunday.
Oxford.—Temperance Hall, 25 1/2 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 13.

- 11 ...Turnham Green—Front Common ...Acton Bch.
11.30...Hackney—Salmon and Ball .....Brooks
11.30...Hammersmith—Beadon Road .....The Branch
11.30...Hoxton Ch., Pitfield St.....Pope & Mackenzie
11.30...Kingsland Green .....Charles
11.30...Merton—Haydons Road.....Eden
11.30...Mile-end Waste .....Mainwaring
11.30...Mitcham Fair Green .....Kitz
11.30...Regent's Park .....Davis & Henderson
11.30...St. Pancras Arches .....Bloomsbury Branch
11.30...Walham Green .....Fulham Branch
3 ...Victoria Park .....Charles
3.30...Hyde Park .....Henderson & Samuels
7.30...Clerkenwell Green .....Samuels
7.30...Stamford Hill .....Charles & Mainwaring

Tuesday.

- 8 ...Mile-end Waste .....Lane & Charles

Wednesday.

- 8 ...Broadway, London Fields .....Charles

Friday.

- 8 ...Euston Rd.—Ossulton Street .....Charles

PROVINCES.

- Glasgow.—Saturday: Cambuslang, at 6.30. Sunday: Jail's Square at 3; Paisley Road at 5.
Leeds.—Sunday: Vicar's Croft, at 11 a.m.
Norwich.—Friday: Meeting on St Catharine's Plain. Sunday: Catton at 11.30; Market Pl. at 3 and 7.30.
West Bromwich.—Near the Fountain, every Sunday morning at 11.15.
Smeethwick.—Near Spon Lane, every Sunday morning at 12.

L.E.L. CLUB AND INSTITUTE, 1 Hoxton Square.—On Saturday May 19 a Concert and Social Evening will be held here, for the purpose of augmenting the Club Funds. Particulars will be given next week.

UNITED RADICAL CLUB, Kay Street, Hackney Road.—On Sunday May 13, H. A. Barker will lecture on "The Moral and Economic Bases of Socialism."

JUNIOR SOCIALIST EDUCATIONAL SOCIETY.—Lefevre will open discussion on "Authority," at 64 Charlotte Street, Fitzroy Square, W., 8 p.m. Saturday May 12.

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

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