

# THE COMMONWEAL

## The Official Journal of the SOCIALIST LEAGUE.

VOL. 4.—No. 146.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 27, 1888.

WEEKLY; ONE PENNY.

### CHICAGO MARTYRS & BLOODY SUNDAY.

"Our silence will be more powerful than our speech."

MRS. PARSONS has accepted the invitation of the Commemoration Committee to speak at the various meetings to be held in London and the provinces next November.

#### SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 10,

A Meat Tea will be provided at St. Paul's Café, St. Paul's Churchyard, E.C., at 7 p.m. Tickets 1s. 6d. each. Tickets will be issued at 6d. each for those who cannot attend tea, in order to hear an address to Mrs. Parsons and her reply.

CUNNINGHAME GRAHAM, M.P., in the Chair.

Songs will be sung during the evening.

Arrangements have already been made to hold meetings on

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 11, at 11.30 a.m., in  
REGENT'S PARK.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 11, at 3.30 p.m., in  
HYDE PARK.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 12, at 7.30 p.m., in  
STORE STREET HALL.

The Chair will be taken by WILLIAM MORRIS.

Speakers:—P. Kropotkin, F. Kitz, J. Blackwell, Trunk, Dr. Merlino, Cunninghame Graham, and others, whose names will be announced next week. The whole of the Trafalgar Square prisoners released will be present at this meeting. Mrs. PARSONS will speak at Wornum Hall and Hyde Park, and probably Victoria Park.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 18, at 3 p.m., in  
VICTORIA PARK.

The following Resolutions will be moved at the meetings:—

#### FIRST RESOLUTION.

"That this meeting commemorates the legal murder of five men which took place on November 11th, 1887 (Parsons, Spies, Fischer, Engels, and Lingg), and the cruel imprisonment of three others (Fielden, Schwab, and Neebe) by the Government of the State of Illinois for the crime of supporting workmen in a labour struggle against their masters, and the further crime of maintaining the rights of free speech, and emphatically denounces the interference with these rights in all capitalist countries; an interference which is the natural result of a so-called Society founded on the robbery of labour."

#### SECOND RESOLUTION.

"That this meeting also denounces the attack on Free Speech made in London on November 13th, 1887, during which three men were killed and many sent to prison after a mere mockery of trial, and it calls for the immediate release of Harrison, condemned to five years penal servitude for being present at a political meeting which was ferociously attacked by the police."

Meantime, funds are urgently needed, and should be sent to Joseph Lane, Treasurer, at the office of the Socialist League, 13, Farringdon Road, E.C. Any information can be had by communicating with Secretary of the Commemoration Committee.

W. B. PARKER, Secretary.

### NOTES ON NEWS.

So we are on the verge of the sea of quibble and evasion and smothering of truth, which is called a political *cause célèbre*. Fine times for the daily press indeed, certain copy, increased sale, and other soothing advantages for "able editors"! Fine times also for the lawyers engaged on both sides! Though that is not much, for the sun does generally shine pretty bright on their side of the hedge, however cold the weather is for others. But as to supposing that anything else will come out of it, that is all nonsense. Arrangements will be made for the *Times* to fall soft; opportunities will be given to respectable Home Rule politicians to declare their unalterable fidelity to the rights of property and law-'n'-order, and we shall then pass to the order of the day.

Mr. Cunninghame Graham's letter to the *Pall Mall*, which had been in ecstasies at the prospect of something decisive coming out of this Great Evasion, was sensible and to the point. It is absolutely true, as he says, "that the majority of the Liberal electors care not one farthing whether Mr. Parnell wrote or instigated the letters." They are now Home Rulers, just as their opponents are Coercionists, whatever Parnell has done or has not done. And really when the *Pall Mall* is driven to say "that the cause of Home Rule will be decided by the judge's decision" in this Great Evasion Case, it surely wants pulling up.

The fact is that Parliament and the Platform having been talked out on the very simple question of Home Rule for Ireland, the quarrel has to be carried on constitutionally by some other means, and the time "put in" till the blessings of a General Election fall upon us. What better means for procrastination could be found than that sire and dam of procrastination, the Law Courts?

General Gordon's statue has been unveiled with very decidedly "maimed rites," and there stands the Christian hero in all the dignity of modern realistic sculpture. Would not this be an opportunity for the revival of the plan for Hudson's Statue, which long ago succumbed to Carlyle's ponderous hammer-strokes of scorn? He might be taken, I mean, as the type of successful commerce; might be represented standing behind the soldier of Christian Commerce and pushing him on to—I was going to say victory; but that I admit is inappropriate—let us say pushing him on to thrusting his head into the hornet's nest for the advantage of "progress" in Africa.

The claims of General Gordon, apart from his private character, to the worship of the centre of the empire of commerce are these: He served as a soldier of fortune in China, where he helped to put down what could scarcely be otherwise than a righteous rebellion against Chinese bureaucracy. He then "got religion," and became that most dangerous tool of capitalistic oppression, the "God-fearing soldier"; in that capacity he allowed himself to be used to drive the wedge of profit-mongering into barbarous Africa, and was quite prepared to do all that a man must do in such a service if he is to earn the name of a good servant. As, for instance, his orders for the cutting down of the fruit-trees of the people whom he had come amongst as a benefactor. He might have remembered that the "barbarous" Arab Calif Omar (who surely was as clear of his message from God as any modern "Christian soldier" could be), in his instructions to his warriors, expressly forbade them the wanton damaging of the fertility of the earth and the cutting down of fruit-trees on any pretence.

The *Pall Mall* says that "Gordon's whole soul would have risen in revolt" against Sir C. Warren's proceedings last year. Would it? That is a very rash assumption. I cannot help thinking that if he had any fault to find with his companion "Christian soldier," it would have been that he did not repress "popular excesses" in a sharper way than he actually did. Studying Gordon's face by photograph and also by Mr. Thorneycroft's very good portrait of him, I see in it the modern soldier—nothing more; and his actions tell us whose soldier he was—the piratical capitalist's soldier. The centre of the accursed capitalism may well worship him, and say to others: "Go thou and do likewise!"

Meantime a certain Mr. Manning has been holding up to our example the much abused Portuguese, who have been making a railway from Loanda to Ambaca (distance 225 miles, but called part of a very ambitious scheme). Mr. Manning is of opinion that this will do more to open up and civilise the country than formal missionary enterprises; though considering what missionary work is going on in other parts of Africa, and that the rifle is the principal tool used in it, that seems doubtful.

The *modus operandi* of the capitalists thus engaged in benefitting humanity is described with a *naïf* simplicity which leaves nothing to be asked for. The Portuguese Government have guaranteed 6 per cent. to the shareholders during construction for five years. The contract was let to a Portuguese contractor, who in the first year of the work sublet it to an American—who sublet portions of it to other contractors—some of these again sublet smaller portions to small contractors. These men engaged their own labourers, *did the work* (italics mine), and received a lump sum on the completion of the work to the satisfaction of the engineer of the chief contractor.

Whether the labourers who did the work for the "small contractors" who *did the work*, were satisfied is another matter. It seems that the chief difficulty is scarcity of labour. "So long as the native can get enough to live on by cultivation or trade he will not do manual work"—for other people. Unreasonable black dog!

Though the Japanese have been for long running after the foul skirts of our modern civilisation, and doing their best to lay hold of the filthy thing, they have not come up to us in the matter of prisons: not being afraid apparently of the competition of prison labour with "free" labour, and not being under the spell of the fiendish stupidity of "philanthropy," which forces us to torture our prisoners by every respectable means (*i.e.*, any means which doesn't make blood flow and bones break), they set their prisoners to doing work which pleases and amuses them, and even teach them to do interesting work if they are capable of it. Only 29 out of 2,000 men in the prison visited by the *Pall Mall* Commissioner were set to the lowest work of breaking stones, and a great many were producing works of art. The Japanese after all have much to learn in the ways of civilisation. May they be long about it!

It is asserted by those who are proposing the great coal trust—that is to say, a monopoly which will have the whole public in its power—that its effect will not be to raise the price of coal. This is rather a big pill to swallow; for how is the greed of the monopolists to be controlled? But the very fact that such an assertion can be made shows once more how the confidence in limitless competition is being shaken: for the contention is that the entire margin of profit would come out of the avoidance of waste, and that that waste is caused by the hurry of *reckless competition*.

The following quotation, however, does not quite bear out the sanguine anticipations of the defender of the attempt to form a coal-trust: "The oil trade in this country [America] is [owing to the "trust"] in a more *satisfactory condition* than it has been in for some years. *Prices are higher*," etc. In point of fact the "more satisfactory condition" almost always does mean higher prices, and it is to this that all these combinations of capitalists are directed. They do not trouble their heads about anything else; for business men, like politicians, take care not to forecast matters for more than six months or so ahead—if even that.

W. M.

## LABOUR'S TRIANGULAR PROBLEM;

OR, MEN VERSUS MACHINES.

(Concluded from p. 330.)

ALL these companies are great users of machinery, are constantly trying to get improved machinery, so as to dispense with manual labour. A great monopoly in any trade means, therefore, monopolist control of all employed in making machinery to be used in that particular trade. A sole controlling monopoly in any trade can afford to give the very highest premium conceivable for any machine needful to the purposes of the monopoly, or can starve the machine-builders into accepting the very lowest subsistence wages; more than that, having at last made the monopoly complete, can afford any price it likes to buy up and finally crush out any machine or method not desired to be put into use. Improved methods and machines have repeatedly been bought up by established manufacturers, for the sole purpose of *not* being used. Under the trust system this can be carried to any extent desired by the monopolists, for they can recoup by famine prices any sum which they expend to maintain their sole control.

Our national life for years past has been depending on the improvements in and development of the trade in machinery, and yet there can be named no particular interest which could not in two years from now be controlled by ten or a dozen English or American capitalists. Take our railway interest; it represents a nominal investment of some eight hundred millions, a real value of less than four hundred millions; it is not a very extravagant idea, seeing what has been done in America, to conceive of our whole railway system managed by a board of millionaires owning the whole controlling power. The very first result of

this would be the equalisation of all fares, and the throwing out of employ of thousands of booking and checking clerks; for just as we to-day buy toffees and almond rock, cigarettes, cigars, matches, post-cards, and pocket-books in every railway station, so we should then help ourselves to our railway ticket from an automatic. This may seem to some as mere joking, but it is meant in sober seriousness, and in face of the developments in machines during the last thirty years, is not to be lightly set aside. How many "try-your-weight" boys has the automatic machine put out of a job during the last two years? and every day brings forth some new supply box; and the apprentice of Old London who stood outside his master's shop crying "What d'ye lack?" to-day appears in an automatic machine screwed to the door-step or window-frame.

Every day produces some fresh and astounding development in machinery. Even while writing, there arrives some notes on a new method of making sugar by electricity, which if true will totally upset the whole labours and negotiations of some of the cutest business men and politicians of the day, who have for months past been dealing with the sugar bounty question, and who, having made careful arrangements to spoil the public, find themselves outdone by a totally unexpected development in manufacture. And so the game goes on—more and more spoil to the spoiler, more and more of suffering to the mass, until, as Ruskin puts it—

"Day after day your souls will become more mechanical, more servile: also you will go on multiplying, wanting more food, and more; you will have to sell cheaper and cheaper, work longer and longer, to buy your food. At last, do what you can, you can make no more, or the people who have the corn will not want any more; and your increasing population will necessarily come to a quite imperative stop—by starvation, preceded necessarily by revolution and massacre." ('Fors' 44, 172.)

Daily more money spent to manufacture idle men, despite the fact it is "mere insane waste to dig coal for our force while the vital force is unused; and not only unused, but, in being so, corrupting and polluting itself. We waste our coal and spoil our humanity at one and the same instant"; and let this be borne in mind, "Your idle people, as they are now, are not merely waste coal beds. They are explosive coal beds, which you pay a high annual rent for."<sup>1</sup>

Just a short while longer and these increasing beds of explosives will go off, and the explosion will be such as will put even Sho-Bandai-San to shame as puny; it will not be the mere question of moving a mountain and leaving a wilderness of mud, it will be as complete as that of the American miner, who, reporting a mishap with some new blasting compound, said when the smoke was gone there wasn't even a hole left. A million of starving people, with another million on the verge of starvation, represent a potential of destructive force to measure which no dynamometer has yet been made, but which will, if suddenly liberated, assuredly and absolutely destroy every vestige of so-called nineteenth century civilisation; will destroy it more completely than time has destroyed the traces of human society of Nineveh, Babylon, Greece and Rome, or even of Mexico.

For the especial benefit of some critics, perhaps it may be well to say in conclusion that no word here placed is to be taken as against machinery and improvements; rather I believe in more and more. I rather like to run back over the history of machinery, the romance of improved methods, and, on the data of what has been done, speculate on what is possible and probable in the future. Although I fail to see what use some of the "saved time" will be after it is saved, yet I would give free rein to every one desired to make time-saving improvements. Ruskin analyses this detail in his 'Fors.' You may keep on making "time-savers" till there is absolutely nothing to do but to make a machine to use up the spare time; but to that the only answer is, if the human mind can occupy itself only in invention of machinery, why let it, and be hanged to it. The only thing to be claimed is the most perfect freedom for every individual to do the same; total denial of the claim that any small section of society shall dominate and exploit the great mass by monopolising the accumulated results of the whole course of time.

And so I pass on, dreaming of and working to realise the dream of the Chartist prison poet:

"Mind writ in every face; books million-fold  
Multiplied; galleries with breath-shapes hung  
Raffaëlle might worship, or Apelles old;  
Groups from great Shakspeare's world or Chaucer's song  
In bronzed or marble life, seeming upsprung  
From some new Phidian realm of earth beneath  
To gem the populous squares; music's full tongue  
Telling to millions what Mozart in death  
Enraptured heard, but could not the boon-sounds bequeath;

And all for ALL! Rank, class, distinction, badge  
For ever gone! Labour by Science made  
Brief recreation—not by Privilege  
Avoided, nor its thrift in name of Trade  
Or Commerce filched. To give a brother's aid  
To brethren, and enlarge the general bliss  
From knowledge, virtue, health, beyond parade  
Of pomp or gold—affording joy. I wis,  
When Truth doth reign, earth shall be such a Paradise!"

(*Purgatory of Suicides*, Book viii.)

THOS. SHORE, jun.

<sup>1</sup> "We can never control the working-man until he eats up to-day what he earns to-morrow."—*Congressman Scott*.

<sup>1</sup> Ruskin: 'Queen of the Air.'

## A LETTER FROM AUSTRALIA.

## THE GREAT NEWCASTLE COLLIERY STRIKE.

ONE of the greatest strikes in the history of Australia has just come off in the Newcastle district. A fierce and determined struggle between capital and labour is now being fought out in the coal-mining industry of New South Wales, which is the main reservoir for supplying the wants of the rest of Australia. The capitalist press is now given a magnificent opportunity of asserting its reptile power, and is working its level best to make the miners appear as dangerous and "revolutionary" wretches and the mineowners as deeply injured philanthropists. It is indeed amusing to observe the frenzied and hysterical efforts made by the commercial sheets to bluff the miners, blind the public to the true facts of the dispute, and uphold the grasping tyranny of plutocratic coal kings. The *Sydney Herald* is especially criminal in this peculiar line.

Trouble has been brewing for a long time past consequent on the continued encroachments made by the mine-owners on the rights of their wage-slaves. There had been an agreement between the proprietors and the miners for some time back, which regulated the price to be paid for hewing coal according to its selling price, the price for small coal, the hours of labour, the settlement of disputes, allowance to be made for "deficiencies," and other matters of detail. This agreement, after having been in force for some time, was ignored and finally abandoned by the masters. The miners, maddened by excessive exactions, took up the matter very warmly at meetings of their Association, and eventually a conference of delegates with representatives of the mine-owners was held on July 21st. The miners asked for the old agreement to be renewed, but the masters fought shy. No distinct understanding was arrived at, the masters offering nothing but evasions and shuffling promises.

In the meantime strikes and lock-outs had taken place in several of the collieries; first in the South Waratah, next in the Ferndale, and afterwards in the Co-operative Colliery and the A. A. Company's Sea Pit. According to the old agreement, the minimum hewing rate is 4s. 2d. a-ton when the selling price of coal is 11s. (which it has been for a long time). The seam, according to the agreement, is not supposed to contain more than six inches of "jerry" band; extra pay was to be given should there be more than six inches of "jerry" in the seam. But in the South Waratah Pit the masters shirked the agreement and only offered the miners the minimum hewing rate, when it should have been much higher. The seam in this mine contains a number of dirt-bands, of an aggregate thickness of fifteen inches. This increased the miners' toil and placed them at a great disadvantage. They demanded 5s. 6d. a-ton for the seam, and arbitration was proposed. However, the negotiations fell through, because the masters persisted in appointing one of their own fraternity on the arbitration-board. A lock-out ensued and work was abandoned in this colliery. Subsequently another big disagreement took place in the Ferndale Colliery, on account of the proprietors pursuing a similar course. Then disputes ensued at other mines. In the A. A. Co.'s Sea Pit the miners desired arbitration, but the bosses would have none of it. In fact the majority of the mine-owners were opposed to arbitration, because, they said, all the previous arbitration-boards had finished by conceding most of the men's demands. On that point the money-sharks were rather sore.

By the way, I must not omit to mention a serious grievance of the miners that has been overlooked by the outside public. Allowances were not made by the bosses for small coal; in fact, the men were continually swindled; and although the work of getting the small coal is just as severe as that of getting the big, they were not paid for it. All slack coal that came up was slung on one side and the masters sold it afterwards for 5s., 6s., and even 7s. a-ton. I understand that in some of the mines men were paid 6d. and 1s. a-ton for loading and sending it up, but for a long time were paid nothing. There is a great demand for this small coal on steamers, tug-boats, and in factories and warehouses. When the men asked 2d. a-ton for working it the masters refused. One can easily guess the enormous profits made in this way by those legalised brigands, the mine-owners. They reap a colossal income out of labour that they pay no wages for; the miners are thus robbed in an extraordinary and barefaced manner.

The miners at last made up their minds to force a definite agreement on the masters, in order to get something approaching fair play. A draft agreement was drawn up and submitted to the masters at the conference which was held on July 21st. Mr. Jesse Gregson, on behalf of the mine-owners, said they would lay their proposals before the men in a fortnight. But there and then he dodged from this time to about a month, about which time the bosses would, if it was convenient, meet the miners in another conference. The capitalists all through the business acted in an arrogant and shameless manner, humbugging the workers to the best of their ability.

Matters by this time came to a head. The miners held a very large aggregate meeting a week after, at which two resolutions were passed. The first urged the masters to adopt the agreement submitted to them on the previous Saturday, and the second declared that if the masters would not submit an agreement satisfactory to the miners, the latter would on receipt thereof give fourteen days' notice that they would go out on strike. The masters were incensed when they heard of this, and refused to submit any agreement at all until the resolutions passed at the aggregate meeting were withdrawn. Arbitration was also knocked on the head.

Balloting for the strike was thereupon commenced. The representatives of both bodies met for the last time in the Newcastle Chamber of Commerce on August 11th. The purse-proud Gregson (of the famous A. A. Company) treated the miners' delegates to a severe lecture and behaved towards Messrs. Goundry and Curley (the president and secretary of the Miners' Union) as if they were a pair of presumptuous savages. The overbearing manner of this giant monopolist only made matters worse. The result of the ballot was given that afternoon in favour of the fourteen days' notice to strike by an overwhelming majority. This meant that over 6,000 men should be thrown out of employment in the various Northumberland collieries. The decision threw the capitalist press into a rare state of perturbation. The *Sydney Morning Herald* was especially furious, and in the most dishonest way took the part of the mine-owners, and denounced the action of the men as "arbitrary" and "tyrannical." Every little event was distorted and exaggerated by this organ of the "classes" in order to make the mine-owning vultures appear generous philanthropists and the miners to appear ungrateful irreconcilables. The views of the colliery proprietors (bogus and otherwise) and other exploiters of labour flooded its columns for several days, but the views of the injured wage-slaves were carefully kept in the background.

All through Australia a wild chorus of wailing has gone up from hundreds of commercial rags, and pictures of coal-less, gas-less cities have been painted

in vivid colours. "Able editors" (in the scissors and paste-pot line) shrieked out their "opinions" in extra leaded type, but in most cases they only succeeded in leaving a strong impression in thinking minds that they were hopelessly ignorant and biased in matters economic and social. Some writers advocated that the miners' leaders should be tried for conspiracy and that special legislation should be introduced to make extended strikes criminal conspiracies. They argued that trade and commerce should not be paralysed because the coal-hewers chose to go out on strike. Very little was said, though, about the pig-headed, selfish action of the employers in refusing arbitration and the moderate demands of the miners.

A few papers, such as the *Australian Star*, *Bulletin*, *Ballarat Courier*, and *Radical*, spoke up strongly for the rights of labour. Other papers followed, and before long a big change in public feeling took place, great sympathy being shown towards the miners by the general body of workers. The Seamen's Union and most of the Australian trades organisations are lending them moral and pecuniary assistance.

At a great meeting held in Newcastle a Citizens' Committee was appointed to mediate between the rival parties. But it bungled from the very start; several of the members apparently held briefs for the mine-monopolists. Canon Selwyn, the leading spokesman, made himself particularly obnoxious to the miners, and acted in such a fashion that they refused to acknowledge him in any way. The commercialised "Citizens' Committee" wanted the miners to withdraw from all the positions they had taken up, while the masters yielded nothing but a mysteriously sealed letter, which they wanted the men to accept blindfold. The men stood their ground firmly, and the negotiations collapsed.

Newcastle being the centre of the coal-mine industry in this part of the world, it follows that if the strike is long continued great economic and social disturbances will ensue throughout Australia. Most of the other colonies depend mainly on the Newcastle district for their coal supply. There are only a few mines in other parts and their output is exceedingly limited. The coal and gas supply of the continent is nearly paralysed and will soon be practically cut off. Of course there is the possibility of the capitalists attempting to work the mines with "scabs" or "blacklegs." There will be the devil to pay if they do; the miners are in no mood to be trifled with, and their wives would form body-guards as they did at Illawarra and Bulli a couple of years ago. Already some tall talk is being indulged in by the monied classes about importing 2,000 skilled miners from England to work the mines. It is hinted that should the first lot join the Miners' Union on their arrival, the leading colliery proprietors will import three or four thousand more and pay them a small bonus. They say that they could obtain 4,000 Kauri timber-getters from New Zealand.

Some of the capitalist papers are beginning to recognise in a half-hearted way some of the principles that Socialists contend for. The *Sydney Daily Telegraph* has published a stirring article on the "People's Coal," in which it descants on the duties of the mine-owners to the public and acknowledges that the coal beds are the property of the people. Other articles of a cheering nature have appeared in several land-nationalist papers.

The miners have issued a manifesto (of which the full text appeared in the *Commonweal* last week). It will be seen that the efforts of the Socialist League and the *Australian Radical* are bearing rich fruit. The manifesto has created a sensation amongst the well-to-do classes. The boss slave-driving organ of the colony, the *Herald*, pulls very wry faces over it, and denounces its "Socialistic and Communistic tendency." It has made several violent attacks on Mr. Curley, the miners' secretary, whom it dubs as one of the "professional agitators." It is trying its best to alienate the support of the Trades and Labour Council from the side of the strikers. In fact the *Herald* is horrified that the miners' delegates should dare to use such highly improper language, and asks the T. and L. C. not to give its sanction to the "Communistic doctrine of the seizure of property acquired by industry and economy" (1). The played-out bunkum about the "risks" of capitalists, "capital working the mines" and paying labour, and the danger of capital clearing out of the country, is dished up for the delectation of gulls and profit-mongering plutocrats. The miners appear to be determined, and talk of a wide and improved system of co-operative distribution and of working the collieries for their own benefit and not to accumulate hoards for millionaires and land-robbers. Much stronger and more Socialistic language than has appeared in their manifestoes is being indulged in by the miners and their delegates at their lodge meetings and big open-air gatherings. The manifestoes are being circulated in every town and hamlet in Australasia. Preparations are being made for a prolonged struggle by both sides. There is some talk of an adjustment being brought about by the mediation of Mr. Brunker and other M.P.'s. The outlook is rather gloomy. The coal famine that is ensuing is throwing thousands of other workers out of employment. The Southern (Illawarra) miners have demanded increased pay and threaten to join their Newcastle comrades. The conflict between labour and monopoly has at last assumed a very definite shape in the sunny land of Australia.

Great efforts are being made to make the public believe that the miners were obtaining exceptionally high wages. Exceptionally good pay-days are picked out for this purpose. But the fact remains that in the most prosperous colliery (Wallsend) the average for the whole year was two and a half days a-week. In other collieries it is much less.

The mine-owners are already employing "blacklegs" at the Greta Colliery to fill small coal. Forty were sent from Sydney for that purpose on Sept. 4; a big escort of police accompanied them. The "blacklegs" are kept close to the mine when not working; they sleep and take their meals in a big shed. The miners are not allowed inside the mine property. Over 300 strikers gathered round the mine on Tuesday hooting and groaning. Violence was feared. There is almost certain to be bloodshed, for the police and numbers of the miners are armed with revolvers. Very exciting scenes have already occurred. By the time this letter is published in the *Commonweal* a great forward move will have been registered in the fortunes of the Australian labour movement.

I must now conclude, with fraternal greetings to our English comrades,  
Sept, 6th, 1888. W. H. McNAMARA

The attempted mediation between masters and men in the Newcastle (New South Wales) coal district has proved fruitless, and there is no prospect at present of a termination of the strike. Somewhat serious disturbances have occurred at Wallsend, where the attitude of the strikers has become threatening.—(By telegram, Oct. 23.)

The ignorance of public questions displayed by the average Congressman is only equalled by the folly of the people who elected him.—*Labour Signal*.



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

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

**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.**

**C. S.**—The Manifesto of the League, the pamphlets in the "Socialist Platform" series, the leaflets issued by the Council of the League, and articles definitely so stated in the 'Weal', are the only authoritative expositions of the League's "creed and policy."

*Periodicals received during the week ending Wednesday October 24.*

<b>ENGLAND</b>	Boston—Woman's Journal	ITALY
Justice	Chicago—Knights of Labor	Turin—Nuovo Gazzetta Operaia
Labour Tribune	Vorbote	GERMANY
London—Freie Presse	Detroit—Der Arme Teufel	Madrid—El Socialista
Norwich—Daylight	Milwaukee—National Reformer	Barcelona—Tierra y Libertad
Postal Service Gazette	Paterson (N. J.) Labor Standard	Seville—La Solidaridad
Railway Review	San Francisco Arbeiter-Zeitung	PORTUGAL
Social Demokrat	FRANCE	Lisbon—O Proleto Operario
Worker's Friend	Paris—Cri du Peuple (daily)	Berlin—Volks Tribune
NEW SOUTH WALES	Le Parti Ouvrier (daily)	AUSTRIA
Hamilton—Radical	La Revolte	Brunn—Arbeiterstimme
INDIA	Le Coup de Feu	Wien—Gleichheit
Bankpore—Behar Herald	Le Proletariat	DENMARK
Madras—People's Friend	Sedan—La Revolution	Social-Demokraten
UNITED STATES	HOLLAND	Stockholm, Social-Demokraten
New York—Der Sozialist	Hague—Recht voor Allen	Malmö—Arbetet
Freiheit	BELGIUM	NORWAY
Truthseeker	Ghent—Vooruit	Kristiania—Social-Democraten
Volkszeitung	Legs—L'Avenir	WEST INDIES
Jewish Volkszeitung	Antwerp—De Werker	Cuba—El Productor
Alarm	SWITZERLAND	
Workmen's Advocate	Arbeiterstimme	
	Bulletin Continental	

## THE HUMOURS OF PROPAGANDA.

In olden times folk lived better and died happier than now a-days. We grudge to die, having never lived; they having lived did not grudge to die. Heaven bless the good souls who left a laugh behind them upon their tombstones!

The world to-day is so full of ugliness and wrong, that if we were to persistently contemplate the misery around us we would certainly go mad. But going mad would not make the world better, and it is to make the world better that we have become Socialists. And we know that we shall make the world better, and that conviction should cheer us. Only those who are without that hope and confidence—the unthinking or reactionary crowd—should be always melancholy.

We are told of a certain Rev. John Durham, minister of the High Church, Glasgow, some 200 years ago, that he never laughed or smiled. He had his house draped in black, and went about perpetually lamenting the "fall of man." Now this same John was, I verily believe, an honest and a feeling man. He believed that the overwhelming mass of the population, including probably some of his nearest friends and relatives, would most certainly be roasted in hell fire for ever. How could he, therefore, be otherwise than sad and full of mourning? I have no doubt that if John had had as little belief in damnation as most modern parsons have, he would have been a merry and hearty fellow, as most honest-thinking and good-hearted people are who wish to do some good in the world. I have seldom found a man who was *always* serious and melancholy of much account in lifting the burden of sorrow from his neighbour's shoulders, or capable of spirited deeds and untiring energy when noble work could be achieved. When a man is perpetually serious—if he be not a Calvinist—you may be certain that he allows his liver and peritneum to usurp the functions of his heart and brain.

Therefore it is that I have humbly resolved to myself to be as cheerful as I can, and make others cheerful also.

Propaganda work is, I know, not usually of a particularly exhilarating character—that is if you stick to it steadfastly, through success and failure, not finking when others funk, not getting wearied of it when others get wearied. Yet even the routine and monotony of propaganda may be enlivened by observing its humorous aspects, and not allowing the enemy to have all the amusement of the little perplexities and awkward situations it sometimes involves us in. Surely, when Christian officers can find magnificent sport in butchering niggers and coolies, when policemen can make merry breaking the heads of members of Parliament and bludgeoning women and children, even Socialists may contrive to extract a humble pleasure in denouncing

landlords and capitalists at street corners, shouting *Commonweal*, and even in reminding forgetful members that it is at least six weeks since they paid their last penny subscription!

Open-air propaganda—even when lacking the excitement and adventure consequent upon police interference—possesses elements of interest and amusement to anyone endowed with average zeal and good humour. It takes some time, no doubt, before one gets quite hardened to the business—especially the speaking part of it. I remember when I first began to speak outdoor, how between the feeling of the cheap-jack nature of the work, and the consciousness of my inability to decently express myself, I was kept in a state of mental torture. When going in the train to some out-of-the-way village, there to practise upon natives, I felt like one going out to be executed. The place appeared to get dreadfully deserted whenever I began to speak, and all my facts and figures vanished from my mind. How I envied the masterly assurance and consummate tact of the itinerant vendor of medicines! Even yet I observe his ways with admiration, and humbly endeavour to imitate them, but I fear with poor success. His knowledge of human nature is profound, whatever his skill in therapeutics may be. You never observe a quack approaching; he appears suddenly in the middle of a market-place or at a street corner like an apparition. If his pharmaceutical chest—carried in his coat pocket—is too small to attract universal attention, he is in nowise disconcerted. Perhaps he places his hat on the ground, walks back a bit and surveys it round; the people begin to notice him and wonder what he is about. Then he ventures to put his finger underneath the hat and withdraws it quickly as if some animal were there, and walks back and surveys it again. When by these manoeuvres he succeeds in gathering a fair crowd all gaping with expectation, he quietly unfolds his parcel and proceeds to dilate upon the wonderful curative virtues of the *Leontodon Taraxacum*, or some other marvellous medicinal herb. In half an hour he has procured the price of a night's lodging, and something to warm him before he tumbles into bed.

The gathering and subsequent behaviour of a meeting is always interesting. When you suddenly shout "Friends!" the people halt, stare at you, wonder if you have hurt yourself in any way, or if you have taken a fit. Then when you get on a bit, some youths draw nigh with a lively expectation that you are about to favour them with a "break down" or an acrobatic feat. The drunk man who jostles into the ring after you have spoken eloquently for an hour upon the robbery of labour, and demands what you are talking about, appears with a regularity that suggests he is an ubiquitous hireling of the capitalists. The annoyance of the drunk man who pronounces himself an enemy of Socialism is not quite as distressing, however, as that of the one who avows himself a friend. The latter invariably insists upon fraternising with you in the most effusive manner. He staggers forward with a swing that nearly knocks you down, plants his beglobbled boot down upon a bundle of *Commonweals*, seizes your hand and holds it till the end of your discourse, every now and then patting you appreciatively upon the shoulder, and encouraging you with "Right you are, my boy!" "God bless you!" and kindred ejaculations of approval.

If you desire to sell literature of any kind don't apologise in any way for its size or quality, rather aggravate, grossly if necessary, its value. The people know you are deceiving them, but they appear to esteem it a compliment that you think they desire a really good thing, and they express their gratification by purchasing. The more barefacedly that a quack exaggerates the virtues of his nostrums, and the more the crowd disbelieve him, the more eagerly, I have observed, they purchase.

If you tell the people, for example, that you are sorry *Commonweal* is not as large as it might be, and that it does not pretend to give all the latest local and foreign news, etc., it doesn't go at all. One of the best sales of *Commonweal* I ever saw, was when a miner's agent took it in hand one day and announced it as follows in thundering tones: "Here we have *Commonweal*! the largest Socialist paper in the country! Edited by William Morris, the greatest poet, painter, designer, and art critic of the age! Cram-full of news about the labour struggle in America, France, Germany, Italy, and Russia! Tells you how you are robbed and who robs you! Tells you what the Social Revolution means, how it can be brought about, and when it will be brought about! Stirring labour songs, correspondence upon important topics, and reports of Socialist meetings all over the country! Price only one penny—less than the price of half a pint of beer, mind you! Only a few copies left!" Nor do I think that those who purchased would be less disposed to do so again when they discovered that its merits might have been more modestly proclaimed.

J. BRUCE GLASIER.

(To be concluded.)

There is but one way for American labour to be protected, and that is to protect itself by organisation.—*Industrial Leader*.

The Indianapolis *Signal* has discovered that the lot of a labour paper is never a happy one. While the editor works and talks about shorter hours of labour for others, he must, in order to keep his paper afloat, put in long hours himself. To publish a labour paper is to take upon oneself a degree of worry and perplexity that would overwhelm more than one stout heart, did not hope tell of a better time coming.

UNEMPLOYED MEMBERS OF THE LEAGUE.—The Editors will insert such a notice as the following for any Branch of the League, in the hope that one member will assist another in obtaining work:—In the Merton and Mitcham Branches there are out of work: One dyer and cleaner (partially); two carpenters (one partially); one each, gasfitter, painter and decorator, sawyer, and labourer.

REVOLUTIONARY CALENDAR.

WEEK ENDING NOVEMBER 3, 1888.

28	Sun.	1794. Trial of Thomas Hardy for high treason. 1813. Louis Blanc born.
29	Mon.	1793. Edinburgh convention of the Friends of the People opened. 1794. Trial of Hardy, Horne Tooke, Thelwall, and others for high treason. 1831. Riots at Bristol, Bath, Coventry, and Worcester. 1883. International Trades Union Congress at Paris.
30	Tues.	1851. Kossuth in London.
31	Wed.	1790. Riot of frame-work knitters at Northampton. 1793. Brissot and others guillotined. 1848. Vienna retaken from the "rebels." 1870. Outbreak in Paris.
1	Thur.	1789. <i>Lettres de cachet</i> abolished. 1811. Henry White the elder tried for seditious libel. 1851. Bodin killed. 1867. Five Fenians sentenced to death at Manchester.
2	Fri.	1841. Daniel O'Connell elected as first Lord Mayor of Dublin.
3	Sat.	1640. Long Parliament met; William Lenthall chosen Speaker. 1815. John Mitchell born.

LETTER FROM AMERICA.

From a private letter written by our comrade Charles Bodendieck in Chicago, the following facts are learned: Bodendieck flatly denies having been acquainted with the detective mentioned in one of my last letters, and most certainly he did not elevate this scoundrel to the position of a room-mate. It seems that the detective found a means to get into Bodendieck's room, and search it in the latter's absence. Now Bodendieck not being married, and earning but small and irregular wages, boarded himself. He kept all his grocery—tea, coffee, sugar, pepper, salt, etc.—in different tin cans. The "sharp-witted" detective, seeing these various mysterious-looking cans, and knowing Bodendieck to be a devoted Anarchist, put two and two together and jumped at once to the conclusion, with a sagacity particularly owned by that class of people, that they must of necessity contain chemicals destined to be used in the manufacture of dynamite. Bodendieck was quickly arrested, and his grocery was given to an analyser of considerable repute, who, after the most minute investigation and much scientific speculation, came to the conclusion that the stuff was—well, what it was. He believed himself fooled, and told his friend Bonfield so in plain terms. Tableau! Bodendieck had to be released, and the Chicago police had added new glory of a shoddy character to its past record.

Our comrade, Oscar Fa'leur, has been permitted to land. Assistant-Secretary of the Treasury, Maynard, did not deem it wise to stab organised labour in the face just before a Presidential contest. Fa'leur has gone to Pittsburgh in search of work.

The rats are leaving the sinking ship. Within the last month, General Secretary Charles Lithman, of the Knights of Labour, and A. A. Carlton, a member of the Executive Board of the same organisation, have resigned and put their services as political spouters and wire-pullers at the disposal of the Republican party. Last Saturday, Thomas B. Barry, also a member of the Executive of the Knights, sent in his resignation accompanied by a letter to Powderly, which, as Barry had opportunity to learn the inner working of the order, proves conclusively what I always have maintained in reference to this labour organisation. Here are a few extracts:

"I hereby tender my resignation as a member of the General Executive Board, to take effect October 5th, as I can no longer endure to be a witness to the many farces and deceptions practised upon the innocent masses. I find that one of the requirements of a member of the board is to be a party to fraud that leaves the unthinking masses to hunger, with nothing for them but promises never intended to be kept. Your policy of deception must soon come to an end if the Order is to live. I have learned that it is a crime to be a Knight of Labour in the general office, as has been proved by the many discharges of tried and true Knights who helped the Order in its infancy, and the employment of unfair people or those who were not members of the Knights of Labour—something never before known in the history of a labour organisation. It was left to the general officers of the Knights of Labour to show their preference for scabism in employing non-members, while hundreds of our own people, equally competent to fill the positions, were made to suffer the pangs of hunger. One work in which you have achieved any amount of success has been in your untiring efforts to destroy not only me but districts that have had the courage to take exception to your worse than criminal policy in handing over the people whose interests you had sworn to protect to corporate greed, as can be proved by the nearly 2,000 people whom your action impelled to walk the streets of Cincinnati for weeks, and many of them to suffer for the necessities of life. For what? That one more representative to the General Assembly favourable to the general administration might be obtained. Had I not been called from the Richmond Convention I would there have exposed your system which you practised upon the representatives of the Order assembled there; when you numbered us all in order that your spies, not being acquainted with the delegates, might dog their footsteps and report to the high lords of the industrial movement what they had learned of the sayings of delegates. Whether those spies were paid out of your private funds or out of the funds of the Order I am unable to say. . . . In refusing to bow in submission and work in unison with the powers that be, in taking this stand against your worse than criminal methods, I do it with the full knowledge of your power to influence and your ability to practice your deception upon the unthinking masses and place yourself before them in the light of injured innocence. Were your power to crush and trample upon the rights of freemen a thousandfold greater I would still pursue the course I have mapped out in the interest of progress. No matter how high on the pedestal of fame a man may have been elevated, if he is wrong, or makes mistakes, I have the courage to tell him so. The die is cast. I have chosen. As for me, I would rather be in hell with the consciousness of knowing that I was right, than in paradise knowing that I was wrong."

There is going to be a lively time in Knights of Labour circles this week. An appeal has been issued to all Knights of Labour and lovers of justice inviting them to attend a mass meeting this Wednesday, where Barry will deliver an address entitled, "The Dry Rot in the Knights of Labour, its Origin and Causes." The appeal closes with the words: "Why has the membership of the order fallen off from 702,000 members in 1886 to 250,000 in 1888? Do you want to know the true state of affairs from those who know them? If so attend the meeting."

It is a matter extremely to be regretted that a powerful organisation has come to this. However, there is no other remedy now but total destruction, so that there may be room for a new organisation.

The immigration question is still in everybody's mind. Powderly devotes in his organ, the *Journal of United Labour*, two columns to the discussion of this question. He says, among other arguments (!):

"On November 22, 1882, I visited the slave pens at Eckert Mines, Maryland, and saw 105 Hungarians, who had been brought to this country under contract to take the places of striking American miners, huddled together in a single room. From that day forth I have spoken and worked against the system. One short year ago papers published in this country protested against a speech which I made on July 4, in denunciation of the system which lands poverty by the thousand under contract and makes paupers of our people. I said then and now repeat that while we owe a great deal to the poor and oppressed of other lands, we owe a great deal more to our own people."

Now Powderly, who has been a member of the Socialist Labour Party, knows that the exclusion of foreign workmen is not a solution of this evil. The Central Labour Union has under discussion a leaflet on the same question, of which I give you the most important points:

"But, inasmuch as the immensely increasing immigration from countries like Italy, Hungary, Poland, and Russia, where the labouring classes are accustomed to a miserably low standard of life, has a tendency to drag down the higher standard of the American workman, means should be devised which will prevent such poorly developed elements from competing with us in the labour market. And one of these means should be to enable such immigrants to become independent of the necessity of seeking employment where the supply of labour is superabundant already. The American nation is the richest in the world. We have millions of acres of unoccupied land. Our resources are almost unlimited. We mean that, in order to get rid of this threatening competition by foreign labour, we should demand from the legislative bodies of the States and the nation that they assist the immigrants in settling on our uncultivated lands. Congress should be prevailed upon to furnish the immigrant with means sufficient to cultivate those lands, and provisions securing the return of such government loans to the immigrant settler may easily be framed. Let us, therefore, immediately commence a powerful agitation for the purpose of impressing it upon the minds of the law-making powers that the remedy for the evils pertaining to increasing immigration is within their reach."

The Central Labour Union are nearer the truth, and if they discontinue to put any trust in government, and take the matter in their own hands, they are very near a solution of the problem.

A committee has been appointed in New York to make preparations for a commemoration meeting on November 11th. The Central Labour Union, the Socialists, and the Anarchists will co-operate. Meetings will be held in all the leading cities of the United States.

A big accident has occurred on the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, near Washington, D.C., resulting in the killing of three persons and injuring seven others. The accident was due to a mistake on the part of the freight train men—the freight train coming into collision with an express train. The freight train men say they had been on duty 36 hours, and had gone asleep while being switched off to wait for some trains to pass. They woke up and believed the road to be clear. Considering the long hours railway men work, it is astonishing that accidents are not more frequent.

How sensations are got up may be seen from the following telegram, which was sent on the 6th of October from St. Louis:

"A special from Winfield, Kan., says that there is great excitement in that vicinity over the discovery that a secret military order of Anarchists, known as the 'National Order of Videttes,' exists in Cowley and Sumner Counties. A man named Pryor, formerly of St. Louis, is given as the leader of the band, and the agitation is increased by the discovery that several well-known citizens are members of it. The discovery was made by a detective employed for that purpose who was initiated into the order."

This telegram was published in all leading papers, but from beginning to end it is a thumping big lie.

A strike is announced from Chicago. All the street-car lines in Chicago are worked by a Philadelphia syndicate, whose representative in Chicago is a Mr. Yerkes, President of the syndicate, a man who has served a year in the Philadelphia penitentiary for embezzlement. This syndicate declared that it was willing to spend a million dollars to break up the organisation of their men. President Yerkes, in an interview with the reporters, made the following remarks: "There is no danger of a strike; the men have not ambition enough to strike. This I tell you in confidence; their spirit is broken. Did you ever observe one of our men? They stand anything, they are used to any kind of treatment. They are cursed and damned by passengers to such an extent, that submission has become their second nature. A few weeks ago one of their committees came to me with a list of complaints; I told them they were mistaken, and strange to say they believed my word." On the 6th of October, the men employed in running the street-cars of the west side struck for higher wages and shorter hours. All was quiet. Yerkes employed 200 private detectives and all the Chicago police to guard his property—against whom? Under these circumstances a brutal attack on peaceable citizens was unavoidable, and even all capitalist papers say that the police was bound to cause the first collision. Sunday night, Captain Schaack, of infamous memory, and a squad of his men, tried to smuggle sixteen scabs imported from Philadelphia into the premises of the Company. Some strikers got a notion of what was going on, and cried "Scab! scab!" This made Schaack mad, and he ordered his bullies to attack the strikers. Strange to say the blue-coats refused to obey orders, and Schaack, who had advanced with drawn revolver to within a few feet of the peaceable citizens, observing the hesitation of his men, shouted to them, "Cowards! cowards! are you afraid? Go on, cowards, disperse this mob." The bluecoats mad through this language obeyed orders, ran at the little knot of strikers with drawn clubs and scattered it in every direction. The north side men have declared that if Yerkes does not give in by to-night, they also will go on strike. On Monday the cars were running again, not separately but bunched, so that more police might be crowded on them. Politics are entering into the conflict now. Yielding to the influence of the Republican city administration, who were afraid to lose votes, Yerkes withdrew yesterday the private detectives. Mayor Roche, or the "Cockroach of the Wild West," as citizen Francis Train called him, is trying to arbitrate between the strikers and the company.

Newark, N.J., October 9, 1888.

HENRY F. CHARLES.

Everywhere it is the same—an increase in aggregate wealth means an increase in poverty; one keeps pace with the other. As population increases, wealth increases; as wealth increases, poverty increases. There is a reason for this, and the reason is that some are enabled to monopolise natural opportunities, which others cannot use without paying a royalty.—*Craftsman*.

# THE LABOUR STRUGGLE.

BRITAIN.

**RENFREW BOILERMAKERS.**—The boilermakers in Renfrew have got their wages increased from 6d. to 7d. per hour.

**ARBROATH MOULDERS.**—The iron moulders in Arbroath, having demanded an advance of 2s. a week, the master acceded to their request.

The strike of weavers at Macclesfield still drags itself along. It has now lasted about three months at an immense cost to both parties.

Lord George Hamilton told the Glasgow Chamber of Commerce that although 3,000 men have been discharged from the dockyards the output of work is the same.

**MOULDERS AND IRONFOUNDERS' WAGES.**—At a meeting of the employers held at Glasgow on the 17th inst., it was agreed to advance wages  $\frac{1}{4}$ d. per hour. The men asked an advance of  $\frac{1}{4}$ d. per hour.

**SHOEMAKERS ORGANISING.**—The shoemakers of Enderby, near Leicester, who some time back seceded from the Leicester trade union, have, after further consideration decided to form a local branch thereof.

**HALLSIDE PATTERN-MAKERS' STRIKE.**—The strike of pattern-makers at Hallside Steel Works has not terminated. The majority of the men are still out, and the few who have commenced work never lifted their tools.

**LANARKSHIRE MINERS.**—The masters who are united against the men have just made up their monthly returns for September and they say, according to their way of looking at it, the men are entitled to an advance of  $2\frac{1}{2}$  per cent.

**DUNDEE RIVETTERS' STRIKE.**—About fifty rivetters employed by Gourlay Bros. and Co., Dundee, in repairing the vessel "Superb," of Liverpool, struck work on 15th inst., asking their wages to be increased to 8 $\frac{1}{4}$ d. per hour, an advance of 1d.

**SHORT TIME IN THE COTTON TRADE.**—At a meeting of the United Cotton Spinner's Association, held in Manchester on 19th inst., it was resolved "that this committee recommend the spinning trade not to 'light up' during the month of November."

**BLAST FURNACEMEN'S WAGES.**—At a meeting of South Staffordshire masters, held at Birmingham on the 18th inst., it was resolved to grant the men an advance of 5 per cent., thus restoring the wages of two years ago. Over 1,000 men are affected.

**LEITH PLATELAYERS' STRIKE.**—A strike of upwards of 200 boilermakers and platelayers has taken place in Leith ship-building and engineering yards. The men are paid 6d. per hour, and demand an advance of  $\frac{1}{4}$ d. It is understood they would accept 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.

**HOLMES SHALE MINERS.**—A full meeting of miners was held at the works on the 16th inst., when it was reported that no further reductions had been imposed on any section of the mine, and that in the case of the men who had gone to Boson, France, for work, their places had been filled up.

**MIDLAND IRONWORKERS' WAGES.**—The ironworkers are manifesting much dissatisfaction with the 5 per cent. advance awarded by arbitrators. The Wolverhampton men on the 17th inst. resolved to give instructions to the Wages Board delegates to immediately give notice for a further  $7\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. advance.

**GLASGOW RIVETERS.**—Riveters and caulkers employed by King and Co., Dock Engine and Boiler Works, South Kinning Place, Paisley Road, have come out for an advance. The employees received threepence less in the week than men in similar establishments. The firm offered the threepence, but the men demanded more.

**A SHORT STRIKE.**—The iron-ship builders at Dundee struck for an advance on Wednesday, 17th. The men held a conference on Friday with the masters; the employers agreed to raise rate of pay from 6d. to 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per hour on new work, and from 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. to 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per hour old. The men accepted this increase, and resumed work on Saturday, 20th.

**SCOTCH STEEL-WORKERS.**—The pattern-makers of Hallside Steel Works, who have been on strike for an advance of halfpenny per hour during the past four weeks, resumed work on the 19th inst., having been promised the advance in a fortnight's time. The moulders of the same works received an advance of a farthing per hour this week.

**CO-OPERATIVE BOOTMAKERS.**—The Leicester Co-operative Boot and Shoe Manufacturing Society the last quarterly report shows to be in a flourishing condition. The last quarter's takings amounted to £2,171, being 30 per cent. increase on previous three months. The workmen participated in profits to the extent of 1s. 9d in the £ upon wages.

**RHONDDA VALLEY MINERS.**—A permanent advance of  $2\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. in wages was, on the 17th inst., granted to the miners of the Rhondda Valley as a result of the Ferndale sliding scale award. It is announced that the advance, which had already been temporarily conceded, is now warranted by the increased price of coal and the revival of trade.

**MIDDLESBROUGH LABOUR DISPUTE.**—Efforts were made on Thursday, 18th, to settle the dispute between Bolckow, Vaughan, and Co., and their workmen in the engineering departments of their works. The men claimed an advance of 10 per cent.; but, after an interview with the general manager, the moulders and boiler-smiths agreed to accept merely 5 per cent.

**SAILORS AT BRISTOL.**—There seems a growing feeling among seamen that they ought to participate in the increased prosperity of the shipping trade. The steamship Titanic was up for signing on Saturday 20th, and the men refused an offer of £3 for seamen and £3 15s. for firemen, and stood out for £3 10s. and £4 respectively. The vessel failed to get her crew on the terms offered.

**IRONWORKERS' WAGES.**—All ironworkers engaged in North Staffordshire iron trade began work on Monday, 22nd, at an advance of 5 per cent. "This has been brought about by the Ironmasters' Association, without any steps having been taken by the men to secure the same," says the press, "and may therefore be regarded as a most satisfactory evidence of a substantial improvement in trade!"

**THREE HUNDRED WEAVERS ON STRIKE.**—On Saturday morning 13th, the weavers employed at the Bury Co-operative Manufacturing Co., Limited's Wellington Mill, Hinds, Bury, resumed work, after having been on strike since previous Thursday. The grievance was extra work and excessive steam. A meeting of the strikers was held on Friday morning and the manager interviewed, but he declined to come to terms. It was afterwards resolved to go in, and this was done on the following morning. So much for "co-operation."

**MONTROSE MILL-WORKERS' WAGES.**—Saturday 20th a meeting of the Dundee district mill and factory operatives was held in Montrose. Rev. H. Williams, Dundee, hon. president, advised them to wait patiently for five months longer, when they would be entitled to the benefit of the union, and then the members in Dundee would help them to strike. A resolution to that effect was adopted.

**GREENOCK SHIPBUILDING STRIKES.**—Riveters' strike in Caird and Company's yard, Greenock, mentioned in this column last week, still continues. They are now joined in their demand by fitters, caulkers, and platers in same yard, and also by the riveters and other iron-workers in Russell and Co.'s yard. Scott and Co., have given notice that, in common with other shipbuilders in Port Glasgow and Greenock, they will give an advance of 5 per cent. on all time-worker's wages.

**SCOTCH RAILWAY-MEN.**—The half-yearly report of the Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants for Scotland, just issued, states that many men are yet employed from 12 to 14 and 16 hours per day. At end of Dec. 1887 total strength of society was 2,743. During past half year there have been added 261, which brings total membership to 3004. For the six months ended June £605 was paid for sick claims, £145 for death claims, and £86 for out-of-work and suspension claims. Total balance at credit of society at the end of June was £4,152.

**A BIG "IRON RING."**—The *Glasgow Daily Mail*, which speaks the truth when a lie cannot help its hatred to the workers, says that a syndicate of all Scotch ironmasters is being formed which will put the copper and salt syndicates into the shade. It only awaits fuller discussion on points of detail—the most important of which is whether it would be possible to work the syndicate without the co-operation of the Cleveland masters, or coerce them into joining. To the Socialist these big syndicates have a peculiar interest, as they mark so clearly the utter smash-up of the Manchester school.

**COTTON STRIKE AT DROYLSDEN.**—For some time there has been great dissatisfaction amongst the minders at the Victoria Spinning Co. as to work and diminishing wages. Recently the matter was referred to the Minders' Association, who made representations to the employers. An alteration was made by the firm, but would have placed the men in no better position than they were. Matters came to a crisis last week and the weft minders tendered a week's notice, which expired Wednesday 17th, the piecers and scavengers coming out at the same time. For some unexplained reasons the twist minders still remain at work.

**MATCHMAKERS' UNION.**—The Union of Women Matchmakers which was formed after the Bryant and May strike, is progressing very satisfactorily. Nearly 700 have joined, and their weekly contributions are paid up with commendable regularity. The first quarter will soon be completed, and at quarterly meeting Mrs. Besant and Mr. Burrows, who are honorary secretary and honorary treasurer respectively, purpose giving the girls a musical entertainment, at which it is hoped some of the foreign delegates to the International Trade Union Congress will be present. The union elected two of their number and their secretary and treasurer to represent them at the Congress, but the fee being 10s. for each delegate, they have decided to send only the president of their committee and Mrs. Besant.

**KINGHORN SHIPBUILDING STRIKE.**—The strike among the riveters at the yard of John Scott and Co., Kinghorn, still continues. The control of the strike is now said to have passed into the hands of the Boilermakers' Society, Glasgow, who are prepared to find work for all the men in the yard in the event of an early settlement not being come to. Messrs. Scott have been in communication with the other shipbuilding yards on the east coast—viz., Aberdeen, Grahamstown, and Leith—to ascertain the rate paid at these places, with a view to drawing up a scale to meet the demands of the men and to guide them in future. The firm lately stopped the contracts known as piecework, and have for some time been paying the riveters a fixed sum per week. "The strike is unfortunate, as the company lately procured two fresh orders from the General Steam Navigation Company, London!"

**GLASGOW TRADES COUNCIL.**—A meeting was held on 10th inst. The cabinetmakers' delegate reported that it had been proposed to reduce wages in the Barrowfield cabinet works by 10 per cent., but it was afterwards withdrawn. It was stated that some of the men who had taken a prominent part in resisting the proposal had been put away, but the rest of the men lifted their tools and left. The engineers' delegate stated that they had accepted an advance of 5 per cent. on the understanding that if warranted by the state of trade they would request another advance in January next. The case of the quay labourers was again before the Council, and it was resolved to approach the Clyde Trust Committee to get the stevedores' licence asked by the men.—At a meeting on 17th inst., the iron-dressers' delegate reported that some time ago they asked an advance of  $\frac{1}{4}$ d. per hour, but employers refused it on the plea that state of trade did not warrant it. It had, he said, been agreed to wait a little before any action was taken. A committee was appointed to enquire into the present state of payment of female labour, to see if steps can be taken to improve present position. It was stated that 48 buttons were sewn on and 48 button-holes worked for 6d. A pair of moleskin trousers was made for 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. For finishing a dozen men's flannel smemets, 6d. was paid; finishing a dozen heavy blue flannel shirts, 1s; fitting jackets for the machine, 11d. per dozen; finishing duck trousers, 8d. and 10d. a-dozen (about 17 hours' work); for making jacket, vest, and kilt, and providing thread for the same, 2s. 3d.; men are paid 17s. 6d. for making the same.

**THE COAL CRISIS.**—Everything points to a widespread strike, but it must fail unless better discipline is maintained; already there are signs of disintegration. The universal demand is 10 per cent.; at several collieries this has been conceded, and the men have gone in without troubling about the rest. The "men" at Hamstead Colliery, in South Staffordshire, have accepted a "provisional" advance of 5 per cent., on condition that they receive the whole if the others win it; at Combs Colliery, in Yorkshire, the men have taken even less; and so on. It is but fair to say that the bulk of the men are determined, and will remain firm whatever happens. That is all the more reason why they should knit their organisation closer together and deal in due fashion with blacklegs and faint hearts. The men who won't support their comrades are the kind that the Australian bosses are longing for, in order to break the strike there. Lord Houghton has been suggesting arbitration; but as this would need that the proprietors laid open their books and showed what profit they have been making, they have declined. Enquiries which are being pushed forward in the mining districts show the advance to be badly needed. Near Barnsley one man, a good workman, in what is considered fairly constant work, has made an average of 13s. 11d. a week. 15s. a week is quite a good figure.

Three test cases at Rotherham showed 19s. 4d. for ten days, 8s. 6d. for six days, and 6s. 6d. for six days. The 10 per cent. advance would make only about 4d. a day in thick coal miners' wages, and 2d. in those of thin coal and stone miners. Although the advance has not yet been generally given, the mere prospect has enabled dealers to raise the retail price from 1s. to 2s. per ton; a good many coalowners have done the same, and are making £100 a day profit—but to raise wages would ruin them! During the period 1871 to 1873, the rise of coal to fabulous prices was currently ascribed to the enormous wages paid to the workmen, who were understood to be working but three days per week, and to pass the rest of their time strumming on pianos and consuming champagne; but evidence collected by the Select Committee of the House of Commons put another complexion on the matter. It appears that in the West of Yorkshire district, between October, 1871, and March, 1873, there was an advance of coal at the pit's mouth of 15s. 5d. per ton, while wages in this period were advanced only 1s. 1½d. per ton! The strikers and intending strikers are narrowly scanning the various papers that are taking sides for and against them. So far they have found the press by no means so inimical as they expected, but some strong talking has been indulged in about certain papers of which they expected more than they have got. In many places they seem especially sore about the *Star*, which, they say, can only find room for a scanty paragraph now and then about a matter that affects the lives of 200,000 men and the comfort of millions more, and has even discontinued its weekly labour column, while it continues to pour out pages about every insignificant happening in Ireland, and can always puff a man-milliner.

AMERICA.—OCTOBER 9.

The feather-workers of New York have won their strike. The long strike of the cigarmakers in Cuba is considered at an end, although several of the factories are still closed. Very likely the sugar factory of Havemeyer and Elder, of Williamsburgh, N.Y., will be closed. 1,700 men would suffer by the change. Last week the two sugar factories in Brooklyn of De Castro and Donnor were closed. The managers say the closing was effected not by orders of the Trust, but for repairing purposes. About 1,200 men are in consequence out of work. The workmen have forced the Republican electioneering committee to turn the *Mail and Express* newspaper chapel into a union shop. The *Mail and Express* has been considered a stronghold of the "Boss Printers' Protective Association."

LIST OF SEPTEMBER STRIKES.

Previously reported	4,374
(The secretary of the Amalgamated Iron and Steel Workers reports 202 members of that organisation on strike.)	
Philipsburgh, Pa.—Glass-workers, for advance, Sept. 20; succeeded 27	—
Duquoin, Ill.—Switchmen, Sept. 25	—
Johnson county, Ark.—Coal-miners, for advance, Sept. 20; failed 30th	—
Baltimore, Md.—Boys in glass-works, question of management, Sept. 28	90
Baltimore, Md.—Boys in glass-works, question of management, Sept. 28	160
Total number of strikers known for September	4,624

LIST OF OCTOBER STRIKES.

Morewood, Pa.—Coke-workers, against discharge of two men, Oct. 1	1,000
Homestead, Pa.—Rail-makers, against docking system, Oct. 1	—
Philadelphia, Pa.—Lock-out of ship-riggers, against reduction, Oct. 1	85
Southern Illinois coal-miners, for advance, Oct. 1	2,000
Allegheny, Pa.—Toby-makers in cigar-factory, for reinstatement of discharged employes, Oct. 1	—
New York City—Feather-workers, against reduction, Oct. 1	300
Scranton, Pa.—Coal-miners, against reduction, Oct. 2	200
New York City—Cabinet-makers, against reduction; succeeded Oct. 4	—
New York City—Painters, against non-union men, Oct. 3; succeeded 4th	—
Total number of strikers known to Oct. 4	3,485
	H. F. C.

CORRESPONDENCE.

HOW NOT TO DO IT.

Dear Sir,—As I have to prepare an essay on "Socialism" for a debating society, I should feel very much obliged if you would kindly forward me by return a pamphlet or small treatise on its principles, and enclose 2d. for postage.—Yours, etc.

[The above is a genuine letter, and a fair sample of a large number actually received. Pamphlets were sent, but one can hardly help standing aghast at the temerity which will tackle so vast a subject in such a way.—Eds.]

EQUALITY.—In the hive of human society, to preserve order and justice, and to banish both vice and corruption, it is necessary that all the individuals be equally employed, and obliged to concur equally in the general good, and that the labour be equally divided among them. If there be any whose riches and birth exempt them from all employment, there will be divisions and unhappiness in the hive. Their idleness is destructive of the general welfare.—Helvetius. *De l'Homme*, II, vi. 5.

THE COTTAR'S SATURDAY NIGHT OF LIFE.—The *Christian Leader* says:—"Then think of the fare! 'Coarse and inadequate,' Mr. J. Boyd Kinnear says. Yes, often worse than the dietary of prisons. 'And shovelfuls of soda in it,' said a lady to us yesterday, 'to make the peas soft and the meal swell.' We were forgetting the soda, with its skinning of the lips and disturbing of the night's sleep. Would that one of your thin-lipped gentry passed a night in a poor-house! No cell to yourself as they have in prison, but a large ward filled with done folk in various stages of decay. The coughing and expectorating from diseased lungs, the groans of senility, the peripatetics of the possessors of worn-out organs strained by the doses of soda, the oaths of the sleepers they awake, the hard bed and often insufficient covering, the cock-crow rising, the ignominious regimental moleskins, the sharp tongue of the dragooning governor, and then the weary round of blank monotony—oh! it is sickening. And wherefore all this heathen cruelty? *Pour encourager les autres*. We are to make Sandy Junior thrifty by kicking his father into a criminal's grave! Oh, Christian Scotland! rich in political economy and soda! Oh that our enemy would write a book telling how a man with a wife and family is to save a competence for declining years out of the miserable pittance earned as wages by unskilled labour!"

INTERNATIONAL NOTES.

BELGIUM.

Comrade Paul Conreur, of La Louvière, in the Hainault province, has been tried by the Court of Assize of Mons, for offences against the person of the King of the Belgians and the Congosee. Some time ago at a public gathering Conreur dared to express his opinions by saying, "Down with the King! Hurrah for the Republic!" That was all. But Conreur is a Socialist, and for that supplementary reason the offence is of course a very cruel one. The bourgeois who sat on the jury have sentenced him to one year's imprisonment, a fine of 300 frs. and all costs, which means at least another six months. Verily, the king of the African slave-traders is not worth so much as that. Conreur made a very able speech in court, but the jurors certainly did not understand one word of it! Besides, why should they?

We had a few words last week on the dark outlook in the coal districts of Belgium, adding therewith that the miners had to live on extremely reduced wages, whereas the owners' benefit was increasing a good deal. A few figures will illustrate this fact. Last year the production of coal increased by more than one million tons (from 17,285,547 to 18,378,624). In fact, the production of 1887 was the largest that has ever been attained. The province of Hainault alone accounts for three-quarters of this production. The 122 coal-pits of that district sold, in 1887, 108,220,000 francs' worth of coal. Out of that sum, 59,338,800 francs have been paid for wages to 75,000 workers, who extract the combustible with the aid of gigantic machines representing 80,000 horse-power, or the continuous effort of 1,600,000 men. Now that which most characterises this year is, besides the revival of the industry, the energetic way in which the coal-mining societies have worked in order to effect savings by reducing costs. In 1886 the ton was sold at 8fr. 24c., and the cost being 7fr. 95c., a benefit of 29c. only was realised. In 1887, whilst the demand was increasing in considerable proportions, the price per ton decreased to 8fr. 3c., but the cost price was reduced to 7fr. 54c., leaving a nearly double profit, 49c. per ton. This reduction has been obtained on the work of the miners; the number of workers has been somewhat diminished, and the quantity of coal extracted by each worker has increased by nine tons in the year. The average extract, by year and worker, until 1876, was 170 tons and less; in 1887 it has amounted to 179 tons. The situation of the miners, however, has not been bettered. Although they have worked six days instead of four all the year round, their wages in 1887 have only shown an increase of 26 francs on those of the previous year. The miner of Hainault has to live on a yearly income of 787 francs (£35 10s. 0d.). In 1878, when he only produced one hundred and fifty tons, he earned 836 francs; in 1882, a year of heavy production, he earned 1,007 francs (£40), but a downfall has since been steadily keeping on. On the other hand, the shareholders have pocketed all the profits; their benefit has doubled. The general outcome in 1887 has been of 6,688,000 francs, whereas in 1886, it had been of 3,610,000 fr. This, of course, never prevents the mine-owners from declaring to their wage-slaves, when asking for an increase of their salaries, that they cannot do it, and they are very sorry indeed, they are even compelled to work at a loss, and they do so only to keep their workers alive. Scoundrels!

ITALY.

Distress and misery increase day after day, and especially so in some of the Sicilian provinces and in the Neapolitan and Piedmontese districts. The wages that are there already extremely low, have now fallen to the extremest possible minimum. The *Messaggero* states that from 1 fr. 50 cent. a-day they have come to 80 and even to 60 centimes: scarcely enough to eat a little *polenta*. These starvation wages are paid to the privileged, thousands of people being out of work altogether. Under such dreadful conditions it cannot be surprising that the emigration movement makes such rapid progress all over the country. In 1877, according to official statistics, there were 18,000 emigrants. In 1878 the numbers were 40,000; in 1882, 60,000; in 1885, 77,000; in 1886, 80,000; and in 1887, 150,000. At the end of the present year there will be nearly 200,000. In certain provinces, this exodus of the population assumes very dangerous proportions. So, for instance, in the southern part of the Peninsula, in the Basilicate district, there have been 12,128 emigrants on a total population of about 500,000 inhabitants—i.e., 23 per thousand—more than in Ireland, where the proportion has been 17 per thousand for the last years. The mass emigration of the country folk also contributes very largely to the concentration of all the agricultural land into the hands of a few proprietors; the *latifundia* of olden times are re-constituted and are from day to day enlarged by the innumerable small plots of land that are left behind them by the outdriven, who can no longer find their daily subsistence on Italian soil. At this very moment, no less than the three-fifths of the productive land of Italy is owned by the large proprietors, and nothing, in the actual state of things, can prevent the progressive accumulation of the agricultural property by an ever more and reduced group of individuals. Nothing,—of course except Revolution, that shall bring the land to its real owner, the whole community. V. D.

THE SOCIALIST LEAGUE.

OFFICES: 13 FARRINGTON ROAD, E.C.

The Offices of the Socialist League will be open for the sale of *Commonweal* and all other Socialist publications from 8.30 a.m. to 9 p.m. every day except Sunday. The Secretary will be in attendance from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily.

A meeting of the metropolitan speakers of the League will be held at 13, Farringdon Road, on Tuesday, Oct. 30, at 8 o'clock, to discuss new leaflet and other propaganda.

London Members' Meeting.—The next monthly meeting of members will take place on Monday, Nov. 5, 1888, at 13 Farringdon Road, at 9 o'clock sharp.

Propaganda Fund.—Collected at Regent's Park, 4s. 8d.; at Hyde Park, 2s. 6½d. Total, 7s. 2½d.

"COMMONWEAL" PRINTING FUND.

Deane, 6d.

REPORTS.

LONDON (OPEN-AIR).—*Regent's Park*.—William Morris addressed very large meeting Sunday morning. *Weal* and other literature sold. *Hyde Park*.—On Sunday an enthusiastic meeting was addressed by Blundell, Henderson, Cantwell, Williams (S.D.F.), and a German comrade. Blundell sang "The March of the Workers," and other Socialist songs were sung. At end of meeting a procession of over 600 workmen marched to *Broad Street*, accompanied by many foot and

mounted police. Revolutionary songs were sung with great fervour. A huge meeting was addressed by Nicholls, Brooks, and McCormick, from which we marched to *Clerkenwell Green*, where another meeting was held by Nicholl and Power (S.D.F.). *Leman Street*.—Good meeting Sunday morning. Speakers: Mrs. Schack, Turner, and Parker. Procession afterwards round Ratcliffe Highway. 11 new members. *Philpot Street*.—On Friday evening Kitz and Parker spoke. Several songs sung. *Victoria Park*.—Oct. 21st, good meeting, addressed by Davis, Mrs. Schack, and Hicks.

**CLERKENWELL**.—On Sunday, Oct. 21, J. Turner lectured on "Palliatives a Waste of Energy." The lecturer was of opinion that a body like the Socialist League should be in the main a party of principle, and should certainly hold aloof from all compromise. When the oppressive factions saw a large party of this expression in the country, they would be sure to throw out "sops" of all shapes and sizes. Good discussion followed.—B.

**FULHAM**.—On Tuesday evening, back of Walham Green Church, Maughan and Groser addressed a very good meeting. Several of Morris's songs were given by Mrs. Tochetti and sister. Sunday morning, Tarleton and Davis addressed a good meeting. In the evening, after Davis and Groser had spoken outside outside our rooms, Tochetti gave his lecture on "Human Sacrifices in England." Several questions and some discussion. 2s. 6d. collected and three members made.—S. B. G.

**HAMMERSMITH**.—At Latimer Road, Sunday morning, very good meeting. Speakers: Tochetti, Dean, Maughan, ably aided by Lyne (S.D.F.) 24 'Weals' sold. Several of the choir attended. In evening, Graham Wallas lectured on "The French Revolutionary Movement of '48."—J. M.

**MERTON AND MITCHAM**.—Good meeting on Fair Green, Mitcham, addressed by Kitz, Sunday morning. On Wimbledon Broadway, Mtday, Kitz and Groser, of Hammersmith Branch, assisted by members of Hammersmith Choir, held a great crowd together for an hour and a half.—F. K.

**WHITECHAPEL AND ST. GEORGE'S**.—At a meeting held on Saturday evening, Leach was appointed treasurer; Scheussel, librarian; and Parker and Wess, secretaries.

**ABERDEEN**.—At indoor meeting on 15th a spirited discussion took place over a lecture on "The coming Revolution." Speakers: Duncan, Aiken, Barron, Turner, Smith, McIntyre, and Leatham. At mass meeting in Castle Street, to protest against the freedom of the city being granted to Goschen (who is Lord Rector of Aberdeen University), Leatham spoke from three different platforms. The meeting showed a decided preference for the strong meat of Socialism, leaving the Gladstonian and trade-union demagogues for the Socialist speaker. Webster also took part, but not as a Socialist.

**EDINBURGH**.—Not much doing here at present. Still lending pamphlets from house to house. On 18th Smith read a paper, which led to good discussion.

**GLASGOW**.—On Sunday, at 2.30, Glasier, Gilbert, and Downie addressed meeting on Green. At Paisley Road Toll, at 5, Tim Burgoyne, Joe Burgoyne, Glasier, and Culloch spoke to large and attentive audience; a number of questions asked and answered.

**IPSWICH**.—On Sunday Creed held meeting at Stutton; Brown lectured at the Pioneers' Hall to good audience; and Thomas spoke at the Debating Club. We are getting on very well with our work since we opened our new hall.—G. T.

**NORWICH**.—Successful meetings during week at corner of Silver Road and St. Catharine's Plain. Mowbray has been addressing unemployed meetings during week. Sunday afternoon, usual meeting in Market Place, addressed by Mowbray; good audience listened attentively. In evening, Cores addressed open-air meeting in Market. At Gordon Hall, Mowbray lectured to fair audience on "Trades' Unionism and its Present Relation to Socialism." Cores took chair. Good sales of literature, and 8s. 6d. collected for propaganda.—A. T. S.

**EAST-END PROPAGANDA**.—Berner Street Club hall was again filled, Saturday evening, to hear discussion, opened by Davis, on "Co-operation." A number of speakers took part. 3s. 6d. was collected.—W. P. B.

**LECTURE DIARY.**  
LONDON.

**Bloomsbury**.—This Branch will shortly be actively working. Socialists resident in this locality should send their names in at once to 13, Farringdon Road.

**Clerkenwell**.—Hall of the Socialist League, 13 Farringdon Road, E.C. Sunday, October 29, at 8.30 p.m., Concert in aid of Chicago Commemoration Fund. Free admission; collection to be made. Sunday, November 4, at 8.30 p.m., Social Evening by Members and Friends; free admission. Sunday November 11, at 8.30 p.m., R. L. Allen, "Man in Relation to Life and Matter."

**Fulham**.—Our rooms, 8 Effie Road, Walham Green, will in future be opened on Thursday evenings at 7 o'clock to all persons interested in social matters.

**Hackney**.—Secretary, E. Lefevre, 28 Percy Terrace, Victoria Road, Hackney Wick.

**Hammersmith**.—Kelmescott House, Upper Mall, W. Sunday Oct. 28, at 8 p.m.

**Hoxton**.—Persons wishing to join this branch are requested to communicate with H. D. Morgan, 22, Nicholas Street Hoxton.

**London Fields**.—All communications, etc., to Mrs. G. G. Schack, 26 Cawley Road, South Hackney.

**Merton**.—Club-house, 3 Clare Villas, Merton Road, Singlegate. Lecture on Sunday evenings at 8.30.

**Mile-end and Bethnal Green**.—95 Boston St., Hackney Road.

**North London**.—Secretary, Nelly Parker. Business meetings held on Friday evenings at 6 Windmill St., Tottenham Court Road, after open-air meeting at Ossulton Street.

**Whitechapel and St. Georges in the East**.—40 Berner Street. Meets Thursdays at 8.

PROVINCES.

**Aberdeen (Scottish Section)**.—Secretary, P. Barrow, 14 Ann Street. Branch meets in Oddfellows Hall on Monday nights at 8. Choir practice at 46 Marischal Street on Thursday evenings at 8.

**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. Samuel Wilson, Secy.

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

**Edinburgh (Scottish Land and Labour League)**.—35 George IV. Bridge. Meetings for Discussion, Thursdays at 8 p.m.

**Galashiels (Scot Sect.)**.—J. Walker, 184 Glendinning Terrace, secy.

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

**Glasgow**.—84 John Street. Reading-room (Draughts, Chess, etc.) open 10 a.m. till 10 p.m. daily. Weekly meeting of members on Thursday evenings at 8. French Class meets every Sunday at 11.

**Ipswich**.—Pioneer Hall, Jacket Street. Meets on Sunday evenings.

**Kilmarnock**.—Secretary, H. McGill, 22 Gilmour St. 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 Offices, 11a Millstone Lane. Fridays at 8 p.m.

**Norwich**.—Sunday, at 8.15, Lecture in Gordon Hall. Monday, at 8, Concert on behalf of Branch funds in Gordon Hall; admission free. Wednesday, at 8, Educational Class. Saturday, 8 until 10.30, Co-operative Clothing Association. Tuesday next, Oct. 30th, General Meeting of Branch will begin at 8 p.m. sharp, to elect officers and discuss the propaganda during coming winter, and other important business. Every comrade is requested to make a special effort to be present.

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

**Walsall**.—Lecture Room, back of Temperance Hall. Mondays at 8 p.m.

**West Calder (Scottish Section)**.—Sec., Robert Lindsay, West Calder.

All persons who sympathise with the views of the Socialist League are earnestly invited to communicate with the above addresses, and if possible help us in preparing for the birth of a true society, based on equality, brotherhood, and freedom for all.

OPEN-AIR PROPAGANDA.

SUNDAY 28.

11.30...Latimer Road Station	Hammersmith Branch
11.30...Mitcham Fair Green	Turner
11.30...Regent's Park	Davis
11.30...Walham Green, opp. Station	Mainwaring
11.30...Welfje Rd., Ravenscourt Pk	Hammersmith
3.30...Hyde Park	Parker
7.30...Broad Street, Soho	Parker
7.30...Clerkenwell Green	Nicoll
7.30...Mitcham Fair Green	Turner

Monday.

8 ...Wimbledon Broadway .....Mainwaring

Tuesday.

8.30...Fulham—back of Walham Green Ch. ...Branch

Friday.

7.30...Euston Rd.—Ossulton Street .....Fuller

EAST END.

SUNDAY 28.

Leman Street, Shadwell	11	...Parker.
Victoria Park	...	3.15...Schack, M'nwaring and Davis.
Broadway, London Fields	8.30	...Mainwaring.

TUESDAY.

Mile-end Waste ... 8.30...Whitechapel Bh.

WEDNESDAY.

Broadway, London Fields 8.30...Davis & Hicks.

FRIDAY.

Philpot St., Commercial Rd. 8.30...Davis, Kitz, Parker

SATURDAY.

Mile-end Waste ... 6 ...Whitechapel Bh.

PROVINCES.

**Aberdeen**.—Saturday: Castle Street, at 7 p.m.

**Glasgow**.—Sunday: Jail's Square at 2 o'clock; Paisley Road at 5 o'clock.

**Ipswich**.—

Sproughton, Wednesday evening.

Westerfield, Thursday evening.

Needham Market, Sunday morning and evening.

**Leeds**.—Sunday: Hunslet Moor, at 11 a.m.; Vicar's Croft, at 7 p.m.

**Leicester**.—Sunday: Russel Square, at 11 a.m.

**Norwich**.—Sunday: Market Place, at 3 and 7.30.

Corner of Silver Road, Thursday at 8.15 p.m.

St Catharine's Plain, Friday at 8.15 p.m.

ST. CLEMENT'S, Lever Street, City Road.—Special Sermon. Sunday Oct. 28, at 5.

PADDINGTON RADICAL CLUB, Paddington Green, Harrow Road.—Rev. S. D. Headlam, "The School Board Election." Sunday Oct. 28, at 8.30 p.m.

ST. NICHOLAS COLE ABBEY, Queen Victoria Street, E.C.—Rev. C. E. Escuret, "The Six Points of the Bishops' Social Charter." Sunday Oct. 28, at 3.45.

DULWICH WORKING MEN'S LIBERAL AND RADICAL CLUB, Lordship Lane, Dulwich.—Mr. W. Steer (E.L.R.L.), "Why Landlordism must Perish." Sunday Oct. 28, at 8 p.m.

PRINCES SQUARE.—A concert was given here on Sunday evening by the East-end Propaganda Committee at this Club, the proceeds to be devoted to the Chicago Commemoration Fund.

THE SOCIALIST CO-OPERATIVE FEDERATION.—The Committee will meet at the Socialist League Offices, 13 Farringdon Road, E.C., on Saturday October 27, at 7.30 p.m. Subscriptions received and members enrolled at 9 p.m.

MILE-END AND BETHNAL GREEN BRANCH.—A meeting of members and friends will take place Sunday October 28th, at 26 Cawley Road, Victoria Park, at 6 p.m., after meeting in Park, to consider best means of forming a Socialist Club in district in connection with this branch. Comrades please attend.—H. M.

UNITED SCANDINAVIAN CLUB, 43 Rathbone Place, Oxford Street, W.—Grand Entertainment, with Concert and Ball, in aid of the Publication and Propaganda Funds of the Debating Sections, will be held on Saturday October 27, at 8.30 p.m. The following, and others, have consented to oblige: Miss D. Powell (violin and piano), Mr. Redfern Williams (humorous songs and sketches), Mr. D. J. Nicoll (selections from "Pickwick Papers"), Messrs. Stewart (nigger sketch). Programme, 6d.

FABIAN SOCIETY.—The Fabian Society is giving a course of lectures on "Socialism: its Basis and Prospects." The first part of the course is devoted to "The Basis of Socialism." Of this, three have already been given—Sept. 21, (1) "The Historical Aspect," Sidney Webb; Oct. 5, (2) "The Economic Aspect," G. Bernard Shaw; Oct. 19, (3) "The Moral Aspect," Sydney Olivier. The first part concludes with: Nov. 2, (4) "The Industrial Aspect," William Clarke. The second part of the course will deal with "The Organisation of Society": Nov. 16, (1) "Property under Socialism," Graham Wallas; Dec. 7, (2) "Industry under Socialism," Annie Besant; Dec. 21, (3) "The Outlook," Hubert Bland.—The meetings will be held at Willis's Rooms, King Street, St. James's Square, S.W. The chair will be taken by the Rev. Stewart D. Headlam, B.A., at 8 p.m. precisely. Tickets for the course may be obtained from the Hon. Sec., Sydney Olivier, 180 Portersdown Rd. W.

CHICAGO MARTYRS—COMMEMORATION MEETINGS.—Mrs. Parsons having accepted the invitation of the Committee to come to England, they trust that all Socialists will embrace this opportunity of making propaganda by holding meetings in different parts of London and the provinces. The expenses of Mrs. Parsons' visit, with printing, hiring halls, etc., will cost at least £40. The Committee trust that all comrades will help to raise this amount. The following sums have been received:—Autonomie Club, £2 10s Princes Square International Club, £2. Berner Street International Club, £2. 1st Section International Club, £2. United Scandinavian Club, £1 10s. East End Propaganda Committee, £1 3s. 6d. Collected a Council meeting Socialist League, 9s. 7½d. Fuller, 1s D. Nicoll, 6d. Total, £11 14s. 7½d.—J. LANE, Treas

Just Published, post 8vo, 202 pp., 4s. 6d.

SIGNS OF CHANGE.

BY WILLIAM MORRIS.

Being seven Lectures, delivered on various occasions for the Socialist League.

Reeves & Turner, 196 Strand; or *Commonweal Office*

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