

withdrawal of the military forces in the Soudan was made. This had the effect of limiting the audience, but the utmost enthusiasm was shown by those who attended, and the meeting was a decided success.

Several resolutions of public interest have been passed by the Council from time to time, chief among which are the following:—

1. A resolution of sympathy with the administration of the *Cri du Peuple* in its efforts to unmask the infamous action of the Secret Police, and condole with Citizen Jean Queroy in the murderous attack made upon him by two of the emissaries of the French Republican Government.

2. A resolution repudiating the proposed "International Conference of Socialists."

3. That the invasion of the Soudan was undertaken with the covert intention of exploiting that country for the purposes of commercial greed, and that therefore the check inflicted on the British invaders should be hailed by all supporters of the cause of the people as a triumph of right over wrong, of righteous self-defence over ruffianly brigandage.

4. A resolution of condolence with the French Socialists on the death of their comrade Jules Vallés.

5. A rider to the resolutions at the St. James's Hall meeting on April 2:—"That this meeting believes the invasion of the Soudan has been prompted solely by the desire to exploit the country in the interest of the Capitalists and Stockjobbers, and warns the working class that such commercial wars will always take place until they unite throughout the civilised world in taking their own affairs in hand themselves."

6. "This meeting of the Provisional Council of the Socialist League considers the action of Mr. Bradlaugh as chairman of the St. James's Hall meeting of April 2, 1885, to have been a flagrant breach of faith towards a delegate of the League, and resolves to treat Mr. Bradlaugh in future in accordance with this consideration of his conduct."

7. "That the Provisional Council of the Socialist League after hearing the statements of the facts concerning the outrage by the police on the members of the International Club of St. Stephen's Mews, is of opinion that the police acted on that occasion in a most brutal and unjustifiable manner, and that this Council determines to take immediate steps to call public attention to the dangerous tactics of the Police authorities." This resolution was followed by action calling upon the London Clubs to send delegates to a meeting to consider the matter. A most successful meeting was held, and a Defence Committee formed in whose hands the matter now rests.

8. A resolution of indignation at the conduct of the French Government in wantonly creating disorder at a peaceful meeting in Paris on Sunday, May 24.

During the past six months lectures under the auspices of the League have been delivered at Edinburgh, Glasgow, Chesterfield, Oxford, Northampton and Bristol, by William Morris. Also by Edward Aveling and Laurence Grönlund at Oxford.

Various open-air meetings have been held in London, at which good work has been done in spreading the literature, etc. An especially good meeting was held at Hyde Park on June 28, when a large number of the *Commonweal* was sold. The most promising meetings are those in connexion with the Hoxton Branch of the Labour Emancipation League and the Hammersmith and North London Branches of the Socialist League.

Two Social Entertainments have been held; the first, in aid of Comrade Adam Weiler, from which a surplus of over £10 was made for his benefit. The second entertainment was in conclusion of the "Lessons in Socialism," and was very successful.

The attendance of Council Members at Meetings has been as follows:—Mahon present 28, absent 0; Mowbray and Lane present 25, absent 3; Eleanor Aveling present 25, absent 3 (twice on duty); W. Morris present 24, absent 4 (always on duty); Edward Aveling present 24, absent 4 (3 times on duty); Bax, Binning and Mainwaring present 23, absent 5; Lessner present 21, absent 7 (twice on duty); Clark present 21, absent 7; H. Charles present 19, absent 6; Adams present 15, absent 7; Scheu and Theodor present 15, absent 0; Cooper present 12, absent 16; Kitz present 11, absent 17; Banner present 6, absent 22; Hudson present 1, absent 24; E. T. Craig present 1, absent 27. Cooper, Kitz and Banner live out of town, and were seldom able to attend. Craig had declared his inability to attend when elected.

The conclusion of this report formally intimates that the Provisional Council ceases to exist as soon as you have heard and accepted this and the reports of its other officers.

JOHN L. MAHON,

Secretary of the Provisional Council.

July 5, 1885.

The portions of the Report relating to the Soudan War and Commune meetings were warmly applauded.

The Chairman explained that the absences of most of the members of the Provisional Council, who had made few attendances, were due to work or the distance at which they lived from the place of meeting. He urged, in the election of the new Council, that any whose names might be put up and who could not attend, should say so.

Mowbray added information as to lectures given by lecturers (appointed by the Council) in many London clubs.

The adoption of the Report was moved by Arnold, seconded by Fuller—carried.

Charles read Financial Report.

Mowbray asked, What was the deficit? Charles: "None."

Morris explained that there were £40 still standing for hire of South Place, because of certain disputed items in the bill.

Shackwitz asked about the *Commonweal* and the Lessons.

Chairman ruled that that must come up afterwards.

Nicoll asked what was the cost of printing. He thought the general expenditure excessive, needing to be cut down all round. The total expenditure averaged about £1 ahead for all the members of the League. He thought every one was hardly worth £1.

Charles pointed out that the only items which could be reduced were office expenditure, printing and the *Commonweal* payments.

Nicoll asked the cost of the Lessons.

Charles: About £40.

Faulkner thought Nicoll was under the impression that the £1 ahead had been spent on the individual members. The question was really whether the money had or had not been well spent.

Mahon gave detailed reasons for heavy office expenses and postage, showing that most of it was occasioned by non-recurrent causes.

Nicoll raised the question of hiring South Place, and of the whole expenditure on the Lessons, asking could it not have been done cheaper.

Mowbray objected to cavilling over the past, even if mistakes might have been made. What they had to do was to look determinedly and hopefully to the future.

E. T. Craig recommended as two means of increasing the funds: an increase in the number in branches and of the contributions of each.

The Chairman: Founding a League, like starting a new business, is expensive. Such items as the expenditure for the hiring of South Place will be unnecessary henceforth. That was one of the reasons for taking these rather expensive premises. It is hoped that money will be made out of the Hall. I must plead guilty to not taking enough trouble to bleed people. I find that the poor pay better than the rich, and, considering the object of the League, this is not very astonishing. We must be on our guard against reducing expenses to such an extent as to injure the efficacy of the work. The thing to do is to get more money rather than reduce expenditure.

Lewis Lyons pointed out that the expenses for furniture would not recur.

H. Charles suggested the appointment of auditors.

R. Banner and S. Mainwaring proposed the adoption of the Financial Report, subject to its being passed by the auditors.

Lewis Lyons asked to whom the auditors would report, and C. Mowbray suggested that they should look over the accounts that day. The late Financial Secretary replied that the accounts were too many and too complex for that to be done. He took it that the auditors would report to the new Council, and also through the paper.

Ogden supported Charles.

J. Lane pointed out that the auditors should be selected outside the limits of the Provisional Council.

On the motion of Theodor and Maudhurst, Beasley was appointed, and on the motion of Graham and Mainwaring, Wade.

The Report of the Editors of the Journal was then read by Edward Aveling.

#### Report of Editors of COMMONWEAL.

Our report is really before you in the six numbers of the *Commonweal* issued. Following out the principles of the League, the journal has been as much as possible educational and organising. With eight pages for the first and second numbers, the supplement from No. 3 onwards has made each issue one of twelve pages. The earlier numbers bore witness to the fact that the leading Socialists of Europe were in sympathy with the League.

The first number, necessarily a hurried production, was hardly to be, and we believe never was, taken as typical. But it contained the Manifesto.

As to the chief articles and their writers, you are in a better position to judge than even we are. But, although thanks are out of place in an organisation where all work is a free-will offering, we are constrained to mention the earnest help given by many working men.

The Reports, the most important part of the paper, have been fairly full. They can be yet fuller if all Branch Secretaries will make a point of forwarding, if possible week by week, notices of the doings of their branches.

The help, not only of secretaries and officials generally, is asked. Every individual member can aid by forwarding extracts from newspapers, paragraphs and quotations bearing upon the movement and Socialism generally. These should be sent week by week, and even day by day. Nothing that is to go into the *Commonweal* of a particular month should reach the Editors later than the first post on the 23rd of the preceding month.

An Inquiry Column has been started in the July number. The success and usefulness of this depend on the energy with which members of the League propound and answer questions and encourage the friends and enemies of the Cause to ask questions.

We are quite conscious that the *Commonweal* has not been a newspaper. As a monthly journal it could not assume this character. In discussing, as you will, the question of keeping the paper as a monthly or making it a weekly, we feel sure that you will bear in mind the relative expense and amount of literary work involved in the two cases.

WILLIAM MORRIS (Editor).

EDWARD AVELING (Sub-Editor).

E. T. Craig hoped that the future numbers of the *Commonweal* would contain a list of the places where it was to be obtained.

Donald suggested that the Report of the Manager of the *Commonweal* should be read at once, so that the discussion on the *Commonweal* might turn upon the financial as well as the literary aspect of the paper.

E. Belfort Bax moved a resolution: "That the *Commonweal* be published weekly at ½d., and consist of four pages only." It was essentially the most important part of our work, and if his suggestion were carried out it would be made much more effective than at present, London and the provincial Branches being kept well abreast of the movement. The relative cost of production would be reduced by one-third, while there would be far more than that proportionate increase of good. He thought it advisable that the contents of the paper should be Socialist news, scientific articles being published as pamphlets.