

among the lodgers, and on examination it again appeared that so bad were the materials and so careless the workmanship of the various pipes and drains that "the water from closets and sinks dripped into the cellars, turning them into a regular death-giving swamp." Nothing daunted, it appears from the Sanitary Commission of 1879 that thirteen charges were brought against Buddensiek, and since then he has on ten different occasions been prosecuted. Disgusted at such unwarranted interference with his individual liberty, Buddensiek took to using "men of straw," in whose name he carried on his business of builder. Of these men one or two were arrested, but on the ground of a technical error escaped punishment. So much for Mr. Buddensiek's past. So far, it will be seen, that he has been invariably successful, and but for the collapse of the houses alluded to, nothing of all this would probably have come to light. But the authorities, much against the grain, for it has since been proved that many of the building inspectors, and other officials, had been bribed by the ex-butcher, have been forced to take steps against him, as the death of the working man Walter, caused by the fall of the houses, had to be examined into before the coroner. Witness after witness was called, and proved that it was absolutely impossible that the houses (I should add that these were philanthropically built for the "benefit" of the working classes) could possibly hold together any length of time, and that "the only wonder is how they could be run up at all." C. B. Malone, of the Bricklayers' Union said: "The stuff used for mortar was clay and bad lime instead of sand and good lime. But sand costs two to three dollars a load, and clay costs nothing. To enrich himself, and other contractors, Buddensiek risks the life of his workmen and the unfortunates who are forced to live in such miserable jerry-houses. Buddensiek constantly employs 'scabs' who work under the union wages, and it is most marvellous that more of these houses have not fallen in." Evidence like this by competent workmen, far too voluminous to quote here, has been brought forward.

In their verdict the jury declare Buddensiek and his partner Frank chiefly responsible for the death of the man Walter, but that this is also due in part to the "incompetence and the neglect of duty of Inspectors Dailey and Mackey." In consequence of this verdict, Buddensiek and his accomplice, Charles Frank, as also Inspectors Dailey and Mackey, have been placed under arrest.

At the coroner's inquest the insolent manner of Buddensiek has caused no little indignation. The following passage from the report of the inquest is interesting. One of the witnesses, a mason, pointed out that the bricks used were so bad that "some crumbled up in one's hand, while others were so damp and soft, they stuck together." "Who stuck together?" asked the defendant's lawyer. "The bricks," explained the coroner. "Oh! I thought the working men," answered the lawyer, laughing. The coroner was silent for a moment, and then said: "I should not wonder if the working men would stick together one fine day, but for a different purpose!"

The indignation of the working classes in New York has been so great there were "fears" that Mr. Buddensiek might be lynched. A large meeting was called to consider the whole matter—for in New York alone there are 1,500 houses built by this enterprising butcher on the same ingenious plan. The police were extremely anxious to prevent this meeting (for there is not the shadow of a doubt that, besides the two Inspectors who have been arrested, a large number of the "officials" in New York are compromised in the affair), and, in order to stop it, resorted to the usual police tactics. The meeting was to be held at Wendel's Assembly Rooms, and Police-Inspector Walling wrote to the proprietor of the hall that "the Socialists intended to make a riot, and that he would do wisely not to let his hall for such a purpose." But Captain Wendel answered that he should certainly not break his contract, and that he would not prevent the meeting. Then "Walling instructed the Commander of the 22nd district, Captain Kililea, to call on Wendel and put the matter to him again. Kililea sent a detective to Wendel, who, however, could not induce him to alter his determination, and was obliged to report that Wendel would not let himself be intimidated. When Captain Kililea heard this he had the alarm-bell rung and called out all his reserves—thirty men—and ordered them off to the hall. They were armed with revolvers and bludgeons." Of course they could not prevent the meeting, at which thousands were present, while thousands had to remain outside for want of room in the hall. The resolution passed at the meeting, besides denouncing the "professional murderer Buddensiek" and his accomplices, the "bribed officials," declares that the meeting "sees in men like Buddensiek and his fellow-criminals the necessary product of the method of capitalistic production, with its consequences of wild hunting after wealth and contempt for human life," and "calls on the workers of New York to have a care that severe justice be dealt out, not only to this one villain, but to work with all their strength to bring about a juster social condition, that will put an end to all Buddensieks." This resolution was enthusiastically carried, and Captain Kililea's thirty men, having stayed to the end of the meeting and made no sign, then marched back again to the station-house to report.

ELEANOR MARX AVELING.

TO MESSRS. GIFFEN, LEVI AND CO.

(Iron Founders' Society's Report for February, 1885.)

WE now present to your notice a very interesting table, which we hope will be instructive and useful to our members. It is a very good reply to the professional accountants, who are very desirous to impress upon the general public that the working-class incomes have so largely increased during the last twenty years. It would, perhaps, be folly to deny that our

order has not benefited by the rapid strides made in the increased wealth of the country at large. It is, therefore, interesting to know, from actual figures and facts, how much increase, if any, has actually come into the pockets of the mechanics and labourers. The answer, so far as our own particular trade is concerned, is given in the table printed in this issue; the accuracy of the figures can be vouched for as gathered from our past annual reports, which are no supposition, but absolute facts. Really, in a monetary sense, we are no better paid than we were twenty years ago, when the cost of rent is taken into consideration. Then, again, look at the increased speed we are compelled to work at the moment any work comes into a shop; the pressure is put on and men are compelled to hurry on, and what for?—why, to hasten our discharge. We can remember the time when employers considered how men were to live when work got slack, and it was a great concern to them what the men would do when discharged from their employ. It is otherwise now with the large majority; they have no care or consideration for the men, very often thinking no more of them than a shovelful of coals or a piece of pig-iron, or hardly as much, because they feel that so much money has gone with the loss of the raw material; but human labor is a thing of very small account in their estimation. It is this feeling and acting on this principle that largely helps to make trade bad. Quantity, quantity is the cry. Quality is getting to be a thing of the past. What is the issue? The name for good work, which made our trade in the past, is fast leaving us; hence one of the reasons why the cry is ever raised, "The trade is leaving the country." They have only to thank themselves. Reckless competition is doing its fell work. Riches and wealth will never compensate for the decay of Men.

(Signed)

WM. HENRY KEY, A.C.S.

EDWARD WOOD, C.S.

EDWARD WATKINS, *Chairman.*

I herewith extract three averages of ten years, namely—1855 to 1864, 1865 to 1874, and 1875 to 1884, though in the report the figures are also given for each year:—

	Yearly average number of members in decade.	Average number of unemployed members	Proportion of unemployed members to every 100 members in the Society	Approximate weekly wages when at work.	Holidays and unemployed time deductions.	Net average wages per week of members.
First 10 years ...	7,459.2	941.3	12.6	£ s. d. 1 9 0	15 6	£ s. d. 1 4 6
Second 10 years...	10,251.2	1,257.3	12.2	1 11 6	16.7	1 6 3
Third 10 years ...	11,883.4	1,775.8	14.8	1 13 0	19.8	1 6 6

There are also reports for Feb., 1885, from 113 branches in the different manufacturing towns in Great Britain. In all except four trade is described as very bad; these four are described as improving.

As our friends the iron founders, according to their report, see with us so plainly the cause of slack trade, and the decay of men; also that hitherto their trade societies have been unable to bring about improvement, they should now reconsider their position; it is a case of cause and effect. The cause is monopoly and competition. The effect that all surplus wealth goes to the monopolists and exploiters of labour, (the idle), while those who produce all the wealth get in return just sufficient to keep them in working order and to beget children to take their place when worn out, just as in battle. We trust that they will now join hands with us for the removal of the cause as the only way to alter the effect, and that in place of the present struggle for a miserable existence we may so alter the conditions of that existence that every one shall work, and in return shall get all that he can require, not only food, clothes and shelter, but leisure and means of enjoyment. This can be done by associative effort only—call it Communism, Socialism, what you will.

JOSEPH LANE.

A friend writes deprecating a forcible revolution; it would be better, he says, to obtain justice without violence, lest we should have violence without justice. True; yet surely, whatever may be in the future, we have not far to seek to find violence without justice in the present. Do men choose a miserable life, or are they forced into it? No one wants violence if a decent life for everyone can be obtained without it. But it is to be feared that the natural sequence of enforced misery will be violent revolution. We ask our friend, is that the fault of the wretched or of the system which has made them wretched?

Our friend also regrets that the *Commonweal* shows a tendency towards Communism, and appears to be departing from Lassalle's position, that to everybody should be secured the fruits of his industry. We ask, in turn, how can you measure the fruits of a man's industry as an individual? It is as a social being, helping and helped by all others, that he can claim anything; and surely nothing but Communism can satisfy this claim, by taking his deeds, giving his needs.—W. M.

It is proposed to raise a fund for a testimonial to Mr. J. Sketchley, who for forty-six years has been working for the cause of the People. His long services are so well known that it is to be hoped the appeal on his behalf will be well responded to. William Morris is the treasurer of the fund.