NOTES ON PASSING EVENTS.

The impudence of the property class finds utterance after every Bank Holiday. A batch of letters appears in the newspapers complaining of the inconsiderateness that occurs when horses are put to, because the men in first-class railway carriages are filled with ladies and lassies of the working class. The working-class folks are fools enough to allow the snobs to have the monopoly of the best carriages for 350 days of the year, and yet a plaintive wail is sent up because they have sometimes to share them the remaining six. These impudent letters will not fail to make the people understand the greed and selfishness of their masters. Another complaint of the letters is that the working people are ill-mannered. Perhaps they are: so are their employers; but manners is one of the many things the people are robbed of.

The North Metropolitan Tramway Company have made a net profit of £36,574 during the past half-year. This is, in a very true sense of the word, blood-money. A shareholder, Mr. Guesdon, stated the working hours of the men to be sixteen-a-day. The chairman said it was only thirteen and a half. The men, it appears, are hounding about the cars for the two and a half hours referred to by the chairman, so that for all practical purposes the statement stands good that the working hours are sixteen. Such a statement means that the men have no time of any kind for recreation, and that ultimately they are sent to their graves before their normal time. The way the company conducts its business shows that nothing but profit is its object. The public consideration is not considered. On the line from Easton to "Nag's Head" they increase their fares on Sundays: no extra pay is given to the men or extra food to the horses. On the line from Archway, Highgate to King's Cross, the longer tickets are increased which in some cases that the public has to pay two fares on Sundays. These are but some of the samples how they take the advantage. Does any one seriously believe that a corporation that slowly murders its employes and that perpetrates such petty meanness on the public should be allowed to continue in such a course? It is time that the tramways were run in the interest of all.

Our opponents tell us that Socialism is impossible. I would ask them to moderate on the results that are taking place in every part of the world, and ask them if things can remain much longer as they are. From France, Belgium, Holland, United States, and Italy come the same news of the people's rebellion against the miseries of their oppressors. The monopolists have been having a quiet time of it for a good many years past, but now they are beginning to shake in their shoes. We urge on the workers to join the Socialist party; not presently riots, but a revolution. We want to put an end to the monopolists; the riesters merely change them. Riots probably do more harm than good to the people. Only the revolution that abolishes capitalism and hands over to an organized people in their place, will make a change good for all.

It is stated that every three years there is created in this country limited liability stock to the amount of the national debt. Usury is of course paid upon this immense sum, so one hardly need wonder how it is that in spite of the enormous annual increase of wealth in this country the workers remain poor. The increase goes into the pockets of the usurers.

A. D.

On Wednesday appeared an abstract of the report of the Commission on the Depression in Trade, which, however, was repudiated the next day. In fact the report according to the account given was so banal that it did look as if nothing very remarkable was done. Perhaps the commission now, with the delinquency, rating, fighting shy, or what not; which would make a lively time of it in the house. Perhaps the very best organisation would result in each member so protesting against himself, walking out of the house and not coming back again. There would be many dry eyes at these departures.—W. M.

SOCIALISM FROM THE ROOT UP.

CHAPTER IX.—THE INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION IN ENGLAND.

In our last two chapters we had to deal with a revolution which was as rich in dramatic interest, and as obvious so, as any period in the history of the world. We have now to note a series of events the well-spring of which was Great Britain. This series is not usually connected by modern historians so as to be dignified by the name of Revolution; but such protests might be organised in a more complete manner, each one, for instance, of these protesting movements might be brought into a form, and such a series might not have been drawn to make a lively time of it in the house. Perhaps the very best organisation would result in each member so protesting against himself, walking out of the house and not coming back again. There would be many dry eyes at these departures.—W. M.

In the last chapter wherein the condition of England was dealt with, we left it a prosperous country, in the ordinary sense of the word, under the rule of an orderly constitutionism. There was no need here for the violent destruction of aristocratic privilege; it was of itself melting into money-privilege, and all was getting ready for the completest and nicest system of the plunder of labour which the world had yet seen.

England was free in the bourgeois sense; that is, there were but a few classes, the survival of the ancient periods. This was a bad idea, and there was an exaction of the tribute which labour has to pay to property to be allowed to live. In a word, on the one hand exploitation was veiled; on the other, the owners of property had no longer to perform in return for the above-said tribute. Nevertheless, all this had to go on on a small scale for a while. Population had not increased largely since the beginning of the seventeenth century; agriculture continued to flourish, one-thirteenth of the land was cultivated. England; the working-classes were not hard pressed, and could not yet be bought and sold in masses. There were no large manufacturing towns, the coal and iron of the country was used in the working up, rather than the means for working it mechanically—fuel, to wit,—gave a manufacturing character to this or that country-side. It was, for example, the sheep-pastures of the Yorkshire hills, the coal and iron of the northern Bradford a weaving country. Its nameake on the Wiltshire Avon was in those days at least as important a centre of the clothing industry as the Garonne, the Rhine, the Seine, and Hampshire kresses. Whitney blankets and Chipping Norton tweeds, meant sweet grass and long wool, with a little water-power to turn the fulling-mills, and not coal, to which material to be worked up was to be brought from the four quarters of the globe. The apparent con-