



"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 are invited from all concerned with social questions. They should be written on one side of the paper only and should be addressed to the Editors of the COMMONWEAL, 13 Farringdon Road, E.C. They must be accompanied by the name and address of the writer, not necessarily for publication.

As all articles are signed, no special significance should be attached to them because of the position they may occupy in these pages. None, therefore, are 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.

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TO CORRESPONDENTS.

NOTICE TO ALL SOCIALISTIC NEWSPAPERS.—The *Commonweal* will be regularly sent to all Socialistic Contemporaries throughout the world, and it is hoped that they on their side will regularly provide the Socialist League with their papers as they may appear.

Periodicals received during the week ending Wednesday August 11.

ENGLAND		Toledo (O.)—Industrial News	ITALY
Norwich—Daylight	San Francisco (Cal.)—Truth	Brescia—Lo Sperimentale	
Bristol Mercury	Springfield (Ill.)—Voice of Labor		SPAIN
Republican	Cincinnati (O.) Unionist	Barcelona—Acracia	
Justice	New Haven (Conn.)—Workmen's Advocate	Cadiz—El Socialismo	
Leicester Co-operative Record	Washington (D. C.)—National View		AUSTRIA
Club and Institute Journal	Newfoundland (Pa.)—La Torpille	Brunn—Volksfreund	
Herald of Health	Portland (Oregon)—Alarm		HOLLAND
Southport Visiter	Patterson (N.J.) Labor Standard	Recht voor Allen	
Anti-Sweater	Chicago (Ill.)—Vorbote		HUNGARY
	Kuights of Labor	Arbeiter-Wochen-Chronik	
UNITED STATES			NORWAY
New York—Volkszeitung			Social-Democraten
Der Sozialist	FRANCE		INDIA
Freiheit	Paris—Cri du Peuple (daily)		
Spread the Light	Le Revolte		
Truthseeker	La Revue Litteraire		
Labor Lyceum	Guisse—Le Devoir		
Boston—Woman's Journal			
Denver (Col.) Labor Inquirer	BELGIUM	Madras—People's Friend	
	Brussels—Le Chante-Clair	Allahabad—People's Budget	
		Bombay—Times of India	

RECEIVED.—"Moderation"—"The Amsterdam Riots"—"Revolution"—"Piece Work."

NOTES ON PASSING EVENTS.

The impudence of the propertied class finds utterance after every Bank Holiday. A batch of letters appears in the newspapers complaining of the inconvenience that snobs are put to, because of the first-class railway carriages being filled with lads 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 359 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 work-people are ill-mannered. Perhaps they are: so are their employers; but manners is but one of the many things the people are robbed of.

The North Metropolitan Tramway Company have made a net profit of £38,574 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 hanging 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 overwork 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 convenience is not considered. On the line from Euston 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, no transfer tickets are issued, which means that the public has to pay two fares on Sundays. These are but small samples of how they take mean advantages. Does any one seriously believe that a corporation that slowly murders its employes and that perpetrates such petty meannesses 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 oponents tell us that Socialism is impossible. I would ask them to meditate on the revolts 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 comes the same news of the people's rebellion against the tyranny 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 to produce riots, but a revolution. We want to put an end to the monopolists; the rioters merely change them. Riots probably do more harm than good to the cause of the people. Only the revolution that will abolish capitalists and landlords, and put an organised 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 coffers 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 grotesque, that it did look as if it might have been drawn up by a Socialist joker; yet it is by no means so sure that it did not contain the gist of the genuine report somewhat denuded of its raiment of verbiage. After all there would be nothing wonderful in the Commissioners being at the bottom of the joke, as such people take great care never to study economy except from the point of view of the most worn-out bourgeois theories; ignorance is an essential of their position as Commissioners. Also as they obviously can do nothing they may think it matters little what they say. Yet for one item I wonder what this solemn farce costs the country?

It has been suggested that the Liberal members shall revenge themselves on Lord Randolph Churchill for his truculent address to the electors of Paddington, by rising and leaving the house in a body as soon as he begins to speak for the first time. This is not a bad idea, but such protests might be organised in a more complete manner, each one, for instance, of these protesting members might be brought back in turn, and a similar protest made against him for his special delinquency, ratting, fighting shy, lying, 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 obviously 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 a Revolution; but it is one nevertheless, and is at least as important in its bearing on the life of the modern world as that more startling and, on the surface, more terrible one in France.

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 constitutionalism. 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 securest 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 checks, the survivals of earlier periods, to interfere with the 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; and on the other, the owners of property had no longer any duties 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 was flourishing; one-thirtieth of the grain raised was exported from England; the working-classes were not hard pressed, and could not yet be bought and sold in masses. There were no large manufacturing towns, and no need for them; the presence of the material to be worked 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 hill-sides, and not the existence of coal beneath them, which made the neighbourhood of the northern Bradford a weaving country. Its namesake on the Wiltshire Avon was in those days at least as important a centre of the clothing industry. The broadcloth of the Gloucestershire valleys, Devonshire and Hampshire kersies, 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-