

does comparatively little in his fields, the growth of the crops depending chiefly on the seed, the soil, and the atmospheric conditions. He holds, therefore, that capital utilised in industries of this kind, in which it has the benefit of the co-operation of Nature, has a return which capital employed in such as the manufacturing industries has not. While the farmer rests from his labour, his flocks and herds and crops continue growing; but when the blacksmith or carpenter throws down his tools, no progress is made with the work he was busy with. So, George argues, it is only just that all capital should be put on the same footing, and consequently that which receives no natural increase or interest should receive an artificial increase. It seems to me that he misses the point altogether. Instead of demonstrating that interest of any kind should be allowed to capital, however employed, he merely asserts that there are two kinds of interest, one natural, the other artificial, and that it is right that capital debarred from getting the first should get the latter—which is *not* what was to be proved. We hold that private property in all natural powers (the sources of interest, according to Henry George) should be abolished, in such wise that no charge for their co-operation with labour would be made. The price of commodities should depend only on the labour engaged in their production. The price of wheat, for instance, should depend only on the quantity of labour required to produce it. Nothing should be charged for the part played by Nature.

Well, then, these are the principal arguments used in defence of usury, by no means such as are likely to convince an unbiassed mind. Every social instinct man is endowed with revolts against such a practice when the iniquity of it is laid bare; and the sense of injustice which I believe exists in greater or less degree in every man's breast condemns it in the most unhesitating manner when its full significance is grasped. Usury, that curse of humanity, is the outcome of greed and selfishness, of the anti-social qualities of human nature, and therefore we will work day and night, in season and out of season, to sweep it clean away.

J. H. SMITH.

THE REVIVAL OF TRADE (?).

THE promised revival of trade is long a-coming, apparently. Here are some cuttings from the *Daily News* of Monday 28th March, chiefly concerning the textile trades.

Cotton Goods, Manchester.—In the cloth market the week has been on the whole rather dull but firm; business for the larger eastern markets much restricted by the uncertainties of exchange. . . . The home trade is doing rather more. . . . "printers" quiet. . . . Business in yarns has fallen below an average in most departments.

Woolen Goods, Leeds.—The week's turnover, all kinds of cloth, has been far below the average, buyers being very cautious in their operations, and showing not the least disposition to speculate.

Wool and Worsted, Bradford.—The wool market has a rather more cheerful tone; but the business is still of a restricted character and to cover orders recently taken in yarns.

Leicester.—In the hosiery business as a whole is quiet. . . . Orders are scarce, and profits narrowed by the keenness of competition.

The Boot and Shoe Trade.—But the chief drawback is—not any despondency as to the outlook for the second quarter, which is cheerful—but the narrowness of profit owing to the activity of competition.

In elastic webs the recent revival has not been maintained, there being now a lull and dullness all round.

Nottingham.—Nothing very cheering can be said of the lace trade this week. Although the season is advancing, the business does not appreciably increase. Indeed, so far from business expanding, it is doubtful whether orders are coming to hand so freely as they did earlier in the year. The local manufacturers, as a rule, have little reason to congratulate themselves on the aspect of commercial affairs. . . . Accounts of the hosiery trade are somewhat discouraging.

Birmingham, Hardware Trade.— . . . New orders are not coming forward very freely, and prices are kept on an unremunerative level by the keenness of competition. . . . The shipping trade continues abnormally quiet. . . . Travelling-trunks of the cheaper kinds are in brisk request, though the profits are limited. The fender and fire-iron branch is rather dull.

Sheffield.—There is a decided check in the progress of the iron and steel trades. . . . Steel makers are experiencing a rather slacker demand for the best qualities. The production of heaving steel castings is fully equal to the demand, which is less boyant than of late. . . . For bar and hoop iron there is a rather better demand than for some other kinds of manufactured iron; but business is not so brisk as it was hoped it would be.

The italics in the above cuttings are, of course, my own. W. M.

Professor Levi told the Wolverhampton Chamber of Commerce that he was not in the least disposed to say that there was any great reason for the trading community of the country to be seriously depressed. Of course the learned professor can see no reason for the depression; he is not supposed to. However, the depression of trade has had a serious effect upon trades' union funds. At the close of 1883 the United Society of Boilermakers and Shipbuilders had an accumulated fund of £108,545. It now stands at £21,895, as much as £1000 having been paid in some weeks to members out of work. The struggle to obtain employment gets keener every day, and when obtained the conditions are more burdensome. Last week the coroner had to hold an inquest on William Crocker, a painter in London. He said to his wife, "I can't stand this any longer. I shall go mad!" He had been all day in search of work, and had been unable to obtain any. Afterwards his body was found in Regent's Canal. Professor Levi must reckon all in, and not rely too much on his own figures. K.

MEETING OF WORKING MEN IN VIENNA.—On Monday a great meeting of working men was held here, at which very strong revolutionary opinions were expressed, so much so that almost every speaker was stopped in the middle of his speech by the police who were present. The congratulatory telegrams from the provincial associations were of so extreme a nature that they were not allowed to be read out.

AT THE QUEEN'S JUBILEE.

FELL fifty years o'er these fair isles
Plump lady Vic had held the sway,
And all the courtly lords had met
To celebrate the crowning day.
"For sure," said they, "it is but right
That loyal subjects every one
Should praise our queen for all the deeds
Her gracious royal hands have done."

So on a glorious day in June
A glittering pageant moved along,
And knights in gay attire were there,
And men in armour stout and strong;
And banners in the sunlight waved,
And trumpets filled the air with sound
While in the midst Victoria rode,
Her head with gaudy jewels crowned.

And far away to right and left
The great crowd stretches silently;
No sound of cheering rose from them
While all the pomp and pride swept by,
But mutterings from clenched teeth,
And angry murmurs rose and fell,
And as she passed, the men-at-arms
Had no light task to guard her well.

The good archbishop all the while
Thought of his goodly golden store,
And pondered deeply in his mind
How to increase it more and more;
And all the bishop friends of Christ
Thought of the very self-same thing;
While at the ropes in many a tower
Stout arms made all the church bells ring.

Far on the outskirts of the crowd
A tattered beggar viewed the pride,
And scorned and jostled by the throng,
Hugged his rags closer to his side,
And muttered underneath his breath,
While down the street the banners passed,
"How long shall earth go rolling on
Ere idle pride shall breathe its last?"

How long before yon sun on high
Shall look upon the earth and see
Freedom's red banner borne aloft
By brave men struggling to be free?
Go on thy way, oh queen, awhile;
Enjoy thy little day of pride,
But all around thy pomp and show
Riseth red revolution's tide.

Go on thy way, the robes thou hast
Are woven out of sighs and tears,
And every hope thy proud heart knows
Is built upon the people's fears.
Hide from thine eyes the sight of those
Whose lives, as mine, are full of woe,
Live out thy little day in peace
Till comes the day when thou shalt know—

That underneath thee all this while
Surges and boils a rising fire
Whose flame of discontent each day
Grows ever fiercer, ever higher;
It undermines thy throne. E'en now
Methinks I see thy jewelled crown
And all thy pomp and rotten pride
Into the wild flame falling down.

The people waken. All too long
Their ignorance hath kept thee up,
But knowledge spreads with misery,
And while they drink deep sorrow's
cup,
Fierce curses in their hearts arise
At thee and all thine idle show,
Thou puppet on a gilded throne
The time shall come when thou must go!

Defender of a useless faith
That tricks the people into prayer,
They find that all the gods are deaf,
And they are crying to the air.
Unconscious heaven will give us naught
Lo, we must up and act as men;
Vampires, who draw our blood to-day,
How we shall sweep you from us then!

I envy not thy pampered ease
Though with keen hunger I may cry,
My rags may flutter in the wind
And life may drag on wearily;
A little longer I can wait,
Nor shall the time be overlong,
Till thou and all thy lordly state
Learn how despair can make men strong!

Ours is the power to destroy
What by our toiling is upheld,
And out of ruin once again
A bright new world of hope to weld.
But thou and all thy crew must go,
Earth has no place for such as thou;
When men shall rise and strike the blow,
Would they were ripe for striking now!

FRED HENDERSON.

[The above verses which it is to be hoped will voice the sentiments of the workers far more faithfully than the fulsome Jubilee jingle of Baron Tennyson, acquire additional interest from the fact that the writer is now unjustly imprisoned in Norwich Castle for directing attention to the injustice of present society.]

LITERARY NOTICES.

We have received the first issues of *Humanitas* (Naples) organ of the Communist-Anarchists. It contains interesting articles each week by F. S. Merlino and others, is well filled up with foreign notes and so forth, and is, in short, a "good halfpennyworth."

In April *Longman's* E. Nesbit has "The Ballad of Ferencz Renyi" in which a revolutionary incident is well and strongly told.

In *Our Corner* Mrs. Besant has an admirable reply to Mr. Bradlaugh, and there is, as usual, a good selection of readable articles.

'The Labor Problem,' is a pamphlet by G. C. Clemens of *Enterprise*, Kan., U.S., in which the problem is fairly well "stated for the busy and the tired" without any attempt at a solution. No price is stated.

'Our Great Social Problem' is a reprint from the *Southport Guardian* of a most interesting correspondence between our comrade Walter Crane, and a Mr. C. H. Brown. The letters of the latter are chiefly of interest as showing the strange mental contortions an intelligent honest man may unconsciously indulge in.

'An Autobiographical Sketch of August Spies,' with notes, and reports of speeches, and portraits of himself and his noble young wife, has been published by the latter at 25 cents, and may be procured from Julius Bordollo, 104-106 E. 4th St., N.Y.

Articles of Interest to Socialists: *Nineteenth Century*: "Science and Pseudo-Science," Huxley; "An Act for the Suspension of Parliament," Trill; "On Well-meant Nonsense about Emigration," Osborne Morgan; "Liberal Unionists and Coercion," Reginald H. Brett and Earl Cowper. *Blackwood's*: "Free Trade and Depressed Trade," A. Williamson. *Contemporary*: "The Plan of Campaign," S. Laing. *Fortnightly*: "Fluctuations in Trade and Wages," Geo. Howell; "A Model Landlord," A. Williams, M.P. [M.B.—It must not be assumed that every article given in this list from time to time is thereby praised. Some are so included, but some for their foolishness and some for their dishonesty; but all in some way are of interest.] S.

AMERICAN SYMPATHY WITH IRELAND.—Both Houses of the New York Legislature have unanimously adopted resolutions expressing sympathy with Ireland, and protesting against the injustice of the new Coercion Bill. Six other States have adopted similar resolutions.