



"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 invited on Social Questions. They should be written on one side of the paper, addressed to the Editors, 13 Farringdon Rd., E.C., and accompanied by the name and address of the writer, not necessarily for publication.

As all articles are signed, no special significance attaches to them because of their position in these pages. None 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.

Rejected MSS. can only be returned if a stamped directed envelope is forwarded with them.

Subscriptions.—For Europe and United States, including postage, per year, 6s., six months, 3s.; three months, 1s. 6d.

Business communications to be addressed to Manager of the COMMONWEAL, 13 Farringdon Road, E.C. Remittances in Postal Orders or halfpenny stamps.

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 December 29.

ENGLAND	New Haven (Conn.)—Workmen's Advocate	Turin—Il Muratore
Norwich—Daylight	Paterson (N. J.) Labor Standard	Rome—L'Emancipazione
Club and Institute Journal	Springfield (Ill.)—Voice of Labor	SWITZERLAND
Londoner Arbeiter-Zeitung	Chicago (Ill.)—Vorbote	Zurich—Sozial Demokrat
Die Autonomie	Knights of Labor	SPAIN
Freethinker	Milwaukee (Wis.)—Volksblatt	Madrid—El Socialista
INDIA	FRANCE	Cadix—El Socialismo
Madras—People's Friend	Paris—Cri du Peuple (daily)	PORTUGAL
Allahabad—People's Budget	Le Socialiste	Lisbon—O Protesto Operario
Bombay—Times of India	Le Revolte	Voz do Operario
Voice of India	La Revue Socialiste	AUSTRIA
Ahmedabad—Praja Mata	L'Action	Arbeiterstimme
CANADA	La Lanterne	Brunn—Volksfreund
Toronto—Labor Reformer	L'Intransigeant	HUNGARY
Montreal—L'Union Ouvriere	Guise—Le Devoir	Arbeiter-Wochen-Chronik
UNITED STATES	Lille—Le Travailleur	ROUMANIA
New York—Volkszeitung	HOLLAND	Bucharest—Fruncul Roman
Freiheit	Hague—Recht voor Allen	Jassy—Lupta
Truthseeker	BELGIUM	DENMARK
Der Socialist	Brussels—Le Chante-Clair	Social-Demokraten
John Swinton's Paper	En Avant	SWEDEN
Boston—Woman's Journal	Liege—L'Avenir	Stockholm—Social-Demokraten
Liberty	Antwerp—De Werker	NORWAY
Denver (Col.) Labor Inquirer	ITALY	Kristiania—Social-Democraten
Cincinnati (O.) Unionist	Milan—Il Fascio Operaio	

EDITORIAL.

WITH this number there is begun a new volume of the *Commonweal*. For two years it has managed to appear regularly and keep before the public a consistent, unflinching exponent of International Revolutionary Socialism. Difficulties of many kinds have had to be surmounted, and in the future we may confidently look for a hardly less arduous endeavour as the price of a continued and useful existence.

During the two years that have elapsed since the *Commonweal* was founded the cause of Socialism has made great strides. In every country of the civilised world there is a definite, strong, and increasing Socialist party; while the influence of the untiring propaganda of its advocates is markedly shown in every popular political and social movement. From all directions come tidings of good cheer; everywhere and all the time commercialism, making desperate but futile efforts to regain its ground, contesting vainly every vantage point, is being beaten backward toward the precipice of final destruction.

In the warfare against class-rule and social wrong the *Commonweal* has borne and will bear its full part. Though there are signs of victory on all hands, and the end of the struggle approaches, yet no strain must be relaxed, no effort cease. Again and again have popular movements been wrecked, because at some period of promise their supporters failed in their vigilance or neglected their labour.

We call upon all men who desire to see the solution of the great problems that befront the labouring people to help us in our task. What we can do shall untiringly be done, but there exist a thousand places into which the light of Socialism has not penetrated, millions of men whom it has not reached. Everyone can help in some way to

spread the light. Let each one do his best. Circulate the *Commonweal*, push Socialistic literature, speak a word in season and out of season for Socialism. Let pass no opportunity of helping on the overthrow of capitalism and the substitution for it of a system of united free labour and fraternal enjoyment.

WILLIAM MORRIS.

H. HALLIDAY SPARLING.

COMMERCIAL COLONISATION.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE "CIVILISATION" OF JAMAICA.

(Concluded from p. 308.)

WE frequently hear that emancipation, free trade, and sugar bounties have ruined Jamaica. It is affirmed, by the wolf against the lamb, that since emancipation labour is so uncertain that the estates cannot be worked to pay. To pay whom and what? An answer to that will explain matters. The estates, it is true, do not at present pay, but it is no fault of the labourers. They do not get the surplus; when they are honestly dealt with they can be depended on to work. Jamaica negroes make good navvies at Panama. The Jamaica Government experienced no difficulty in getting all the labour required for the railway and other public works, yet the planters have to get coolies imported for them from the East Indies. This pauper labour is a downright injustice to the blacks of Jamaica, and the more so because the Government levies a tax to carry on the immigration. If it were not for it the labour conditions of the island would soon undergo a change at the expense of some English capitalists. The estates are nearly all mortgaged to English capitalists and there are few resident proprietors. The management of the estates is, therefore, not what it should, or could be. It is neither vigorous nor prospective; it is always extravagant in details, and future crops are often sacrificed to a quick return policy in order to be up to time with payment to the mortgagees. The truck system in freights and estates' supplies prevails. The planters are forced to ship only in mortgagees' ships at excessive rates, and the estates' supplies purchased and shipped by the mortgagees are equally extravagant and expensive. The estates of Jamaica are like "a headless trunk bleeding at every pore." Strange, is it not, that in every country the labourer has to suffer for sins not his own? Those capitalists in England who endeavour to develop the industry of Jamaica to their own undue enrichment are doing so to the impoverishment of Jamaica and its people. These plunderers wanted the Jamaican to labour for starvation wages, and the latter was too much of a man to return to slavery; he preferred to starve or go to Colon even though he met a premature death in going. When the planters or plunderers failed to bring the Jamaican to his knees they called upon the Government to secure pauper labour and it was done. But danger again looms ahead. Twenty thousand labourers are shipped every year from Jamaica to Colon. Of this amount one-half must be deducted for those who return on friendly visits, but this stream will stop with the wind up of the Panama Canal works. These works were a God-send to the Administrators of Jamaica. But for it the labour revolution would have developed ere now into something which would have surpassed any rebellion of the past for far-reaching consequences.

The present Governor—Sir Henry Norman—recognises this, for he has had a Bill passed this year giving powers to suspend Coolie immigration at the expense of the Government. How does labour stand at present in Jamaica when so many thousands are drafted each year to Panama? At present the rate of wages, for skilled labour, per day is: bricklayers, 2s. 6d. to 3s.; blacksmiths, 3s.; joiners, 2s. to 2s. 9d.; painters, 2s.; and for unskilled labour: men, 1s. to 1s. 6d. per day; women, 9d. to 1s. per day. These figures sink much lower in value than the figures indicate, when we consider the cost of food and shoddy clothes. The price of bread is 3d. per lb.; sugar, 2d. per lb.; coffee, 5d. per quart; Indian meal, 2½d. per quart; oat meal, 6d. per lb.; butter, 1s. 6d. and 2s. per lb.; English cheese, 2s. per lb.; American cheese, 1s. 3d. per lb.; rice, 4½d. per quart; salt and fresh fish, 6d. per lb.; potatoes, 2½d. per lb.; yam, 1d. per lb. The Jamaica labourer gets two meals proper per day besides the mangos he picks up. For the first he takes yam and salt fish, and for the second for a change he takes salt fish and yam. This is an alarming fact if it be true what Mr. Espeut said in their legislative council last month. He declared, "I have noticed that people who live on roots are always lowest down in the mental and physical scale. Cereal food is what the people should produce and eat." Mr. Espeut would be a better legislator were he to inquire into the cause why the people eat roots, instead of trying to cure the effects. He is like our temperance reformers who mistake an effect for a cause. There is a more degrading thing than yams operating on the people of Jamaica, and that is the enslavement of its women. They are made to carry stones on their heads for ten or twelve hours under a tropical sun for a miserable pittance of 9d. They have to do it frequently when they are in a condition not favourable to the development of the coming race. The character of a race is the true reflex of the condition of its women. If they are degraded the result is branded on their offspring, and it is a well known fact that the poorest and most wretched countries are those in which women are made to labour most. The "ladies" and clergymen of England who advocate pit labour for women should