



"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.

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### TO CORRESPONDENTS.

E. W. A. (King's Langley).—Thanks, but fear readers too sick of the subject.  
C. W. T.—Account of Bolton affair already in type when yours received.

*Periodicals received during the week ending Wednesday July 13.*

ENGLAND	FRANCE
Justice	Le Revolte
Jus	SWITZERLAND
Londoner Arbeiter-Zeitung	Zurich—Sozial Demokrat
Norwich—Daylight	AUSTRIA
CANADA	Vienna—Gleichheit
Toronto—Labor Reformer	ROUMANIA
UNITED STATES	Jassy—Lupta
New York—Truthseeker	DENMARK
Der Sozialist	Social-Demokraten
Volkszeitung	SWEDEN
Leader	Stockholm—Social-Demokraten
John Swinton's Paper	
Boston—Woman's Journal	
Chicago (Ill.)—Vorbote	
Fort Worth (Tex.)—South West	
Hammonton (N.J.)—Credit Foncier	
Milwaukee (Wis.)—Volksblatt	
New Haven (Conn.)—Workmen's Advocate	
Philadelphia (Pa.)—Carpenter	
Paterson (N.J.)—Labor Standard	
San Francisco (Cal.)—The People	
St Louis (Mo.)—Altruist	
Portland (Oreg.)—Avant-Courier	

### NOTES ON NEWS.

WHEN one has said that the Coercion Bill has passed its third reading, there seems little more to be said on the subject at this stage of the proceedings, except perhaps to express wonder at the meaning of all the fine phrases about the civilisation of the times, the freedom under which we live, the progress we have made in the toleration of the expression of opinion, the power of rational minorities, and the like. It is as well to descend to earth after all those fine flights, and to remember what the whole event means. Simply that political changes which are purely political and seem to lead nowhere, are accepted with little struggle as mere shifting in the rules of an amusing game, in which there must be a certain amount of give and take; while on the other hand changes that threaten ever so little the sacred "rights of property" are to be defended by any means, fair and foul.

And these means are really only manifestations and forms of one when once the possibilities of fraud are exhausted, and that one is mere brute-force. That really lies behind all the junketing and gentilities of modern society, all its philanthropy and cant, and self-satisfied priggism. Brute-force is the foundation of all that, neither more nor less than it was of the devastations of Atilla or Timur: neither is it any more forgiven than in the days of the older brutalities, when once it is known for what it is. From that point of view we owe some thanks to the Tory Government and its steady majority of nobodies; in this instance of Ireland they have stripped the veil of pretence off their actions, and they say to the Irish, "Dog, do this because it is profitable to us!" It will be a good day for the Social Revolution when the masters of society generally are forced into the same course, and dropping all pretence, to say openly to their slaves, "Work for me (mostly gratis) or die."

The Liberal successes at Spalding and Coventry, and the reduction of the Tory vote at North Paddington, are no doubt promising to the "outs" in the game of "ins and outs" as it is now being played. But hear the *Daily News* as to the spirit abroad among the working men at North Paddington:

"A number of working men who possessed the vote could not be got to use it, being swayed by an overmastering impression that in regard to the two parties in the State it was 'six of one and half-a-dozen of the other,' and that neither cared a straw for the interests of the working man. 'Why should I trouble about voting? What is it to you or me who gets in? They're both a set of humbugs, promising you anything and everything to get in, and doing nothing when they get there.'"

Yes that is why the Tories are able to keep their places, and why their party is being continually helped by persons once called Liberals and Radicals: because the working-men voters have got hold of one truth at least, that Parliament, with its parties, auxilliary newspapers,

and the like, is not kept going for them but for their masters. This is encouraging to Socialists and other honest men—who will all be Socialists presently.

The Government has sustained a sharp defeat, owing to their own inconsiderate folly and want of foresight in not seeing how probable it was that the Cass incident would be taken up by the shop-keeping group, and what dangerous enemies they are. On the other hand, so good-natured and easily-pleased (and one must add so stupid) the general English public is, that the House of Commons has considerably reinstated itself in public opinion by voting, by a very narrow majority, that it may be wrong for a policeman and a magistrate to commit an act which is at once (for a wonder) illegal and unjust, and for a great official to decline to consider such a proceeding.

Again wonders will never cease! The martinet Sir Charles Warren has issued instructions to the police not to go beyond the law in persecuting poor girls in the streets, who are doing what our present society insists that some women shall do; that is, to serving as a safeguard to the chastity, or a veil to the respectability, of their richer sisters.

As to Mr. Newton, what can one say but that he has acted after his kind? What he did in the case of Miss Cass he does, no doubt, every day: only this time to injustice, brutality, and cruelty he added a mistake. He thought he was dealing with a defenceless person, and lo! the shopkeeping class spring up behind her like a jack-in-the-box. No doubt he will take care not to do it again;—that is the mistake, not the injustice, brutality, and cruelty. W. M.

Some idea of how landlords plunder the unhappy devils in their clutches may be gathered from the figures that appear now and then in the press. The *Daily News* of July 8 said, in commenting on a return of judicial rents in Ireland, then just published: "We have it on the authority of the Land Commissioners that seven tenants whose aggregate rental was £372 ought not in equity to be required to pay more than £157; that one man has been paying fifteen guineas for land not worth more than five pounds; another £54 for land not worth more than £20; a third £107 for land not worth more than £50."

Knowing what "in equity" and "not worth" mean when used in a capitalist organ, this reads as a strong condemnation of the landlord system.

The *Saturday Review* has been lucubrating upon modern society and its evil condition. In the course of its remarks it says: "There are several great influences that influence the destiny of nations: one of these is the social condition of a people; the fountain-head and mainspring of which in this country is London society. It is composed of the wealthiest, richest, and best-born in the land!"

It is difficult to see how those whose social function is consumption only can be the "fountain-head" of anything, nor, supposing that a "social condition" is furnished with a "mainspring," is it easier to understand how those who "toil not, neither do they spin," can supply that useful portion of machinery.

I am not acquainted with the difference there is intended to be made between the "wealthiest" and "richest"; nor, after the disclosures so often made, with what may make men the "best-born"; but I would suggest that when even a "respectable paper" like the *Saturday* can talk of the "rottenness and degradation" of those who form the "fountain-head and mainspring," that it is time something was done toward making a new "fountain-head and mainspring."

Of course the old series of dread examples is duly trotted out to show that great wealth brings luxury and deterioration upon a people and has wrecked all great empires hitherto; but, from lack of logic or otherwise, it is carefully kept out of view that these results have ensued upon great wealth in the hands of a class.

The experiment of a people free from class-rule and monopoly, holding wealth as a social possession, has not yet been tried. But the time comes, and that right soon, when it shall be, and succeed! S.

### CONCERNING USURY.

THE new Socialistic economy is rapidly taking root in the popular mind and conscience, but there are points connected with it still involved in considerable obscurity and doubt. Take, for example, the subject of "Interest," as it is called. Henry George, in his great epoch-making work, 'Progress and Poverty,' sanctions a form of that dreadful social cancer which, to my mind, is a deplorable blemish. Why? Because it leaves a door still open for a section of the community to live in idle luxury on the produce of other men's toil. "The produce of labour," said Adam Smith, with wonderful penetration, "is the natural reward or wages of labour." The converse of this proposition is obviously: *Idleness produces nothing, and is therefore entitled to nothing.*

Those economists who maintain the validity of "interest" do not in so many words deny that idleness should go without any reward. What they contend is that idleness which has once been industrious and produced something, should be entitled to live happily ever after-