THE LABOUR STRUGGLE.

BRITAIN.

A sliding scale for the rating of wages has been signed between the representative bodies of employers and the men employed at the Cleveland Steel Works. The sliding scale is to be in operation for two years.

The strike in the iron shipbuilding trade in Belfast continues. About 6000 persons have now been up and down six weeks idle and a large proportion of them is in a most destitute condition. Several efforts at agreement have been made, but the workmen have persistently declared that they will not receive their wages weekly else they will not return to the shipyards.

The General Committee of the Iron Trades Employers' Association have decided to hold a meeting of the whole of the Employers' Committee to expel them if they may see fit for the assistance of the employers in the North of England.

The North Yorkshire and Cleveland Mines Association held their sixteenth annual meeting at the Grand Hotel, Harrogate, yesterday. The meeting was well attended and the following resolutions were passed:

1. Resolved, that the present system of land tenure is detrimental to the interests of the nation, and that decentralisation of government is necessary to deal with this and other questions of national importance, is of opinion that the reform of the land laws and the question of local self-government should receive the earnest and speedy attention of the Government, and calls upon them to introduce into Parliament the earliest possible moment Bills dealing in a comprehensive way with the two questions.

2. Resolved, that the recommendations of the Committee of Enquiry into the question of employment in the Cotton Spinners' Association were not adhered to by the voluntary committees.

On the 10th of June the London and Provincial Miners' Association held its first meeting at the Ironworks of the Accrington & District Iron Co., Blackburn. The main object of the meeting was to consider the propriety of employing the services of a lawyer and to decide on the appointment of a chairman to act as an official representative of the association in any case that might arise. The following resolutions were passed:

1. Resolved, that the association have need of a lawyer to act as an official representative of the association.

2. Resolved, that the chairman of the meeting act as an official representative of the association.

At the Hotel de Ville on Wednesday last, the Socialist Municipal Councillors of Paris placed before the sitting a motion "inviting the Director of Works to proceed immediately to the opening of the greatest possible number of work-yards, to take part of all the strikers to give to all the workers of Paris the right of regular wages, and that the Mayor of Paris shall have the right to coin the foreign Socialist journals since the execution of that hero."
great things with it. "Thanks to the good sense of the Belgian workers work has recommended," says one of the bourgeois journals, rubbing its hands with sleek satisfaction.

"The Belgian coal industry is a question of life and death. Its existence depends upon cheap production. It has keen competitors in German collieries. But even when the industry is in a flourishing condition, it otherwise itself is organizing an opposition to the English trade in the direction of exports. The nature of the mines renders the production of coal in this way of meaning, and so that a low price can only be maintained by cheap labour. Belgium has a dense population, and though the people are industrious enough, they have yet to learn the art of associated labour. The products of their own industry. In their ignorance they give too much heed to the doctrines of Socialists and Anarchists."—M. Audel in the "Colliery Gazette."—Ignorant truly! Not to see the overwhelming importance of an industry that in order to keep itself going must reduce them to mere starvation! But, Messrs. Belgian Capitalists, you dare not do this! You do not despise, at your table with half-dead men, a fact which surely renews to your ingenuity, and your usefulness as Captains of Industry; but to show a man with whom you do not wish to deal, what you would wish. May be that case the governments would issue game licenses to kill for that purpose, not partridges, but men. You doomed yourself.

[Branches, members, and readers might easily do a great deal to assist in rendering more complete this weekly record of the Labour Struggle. Everyone should send any information in their possession to the Sub-Roron at this Office, by Tuesday in each week, marking envelope "Labour Struggle."

NORTHUMBRIAN NOTES.

The strike being now a thing of the past, the affairs in Northumberland are returning to their normal aspect. Many of the pits are not at work yet, but there is little reason to fear that any of the trade of the district was lost during the strike. Amongst the men, however, there is a bitter feeling that their employers have not done them justice. Thomas' offer of reducing the men's wages to a shilling a day will be accepted as insufficient to blame for the failure. At some collieries the men are threatening to leave the Miners' Union, so much are they disgusted with it. This, however, is not the general feeling. There are pits where the men's wages seem stronger than ever, and above all, make their officials servants—not masters as they should be.

During the past 16 years the miners' wages in Northumberland have been reduced fully 45 per cent. The men get 1s. 9d. now for the same work that they have yet to lose. The Social Democrats are not the only people who see the Progress" than Messrs. Giffen and Mulhall's figures. These are the dry un-questions facts about one of the largest and most important trades in the country.

Some miners want to know why Mr. Birn's salary should not be reduced at the same rate as their wages. The Annual Report of the National Coal Association makes it clear that any reduction in the miners' wages, as well as in the amount of their wages, was made to this effect. The most by a narrow majority.

At Barnard (Northumberland) last week, four miners worked seven shifts and got 3s. for the whole of "holiness."—It is a special relation between the individual soul and "God." This has as its correlate what is sometimes known as the "ethics of inwardsness"—that is, a morality which centres in moral and ethical sensibilities, in the worship of conscience and the attitude towards the divinity—or in other words, "Salvation." As a consequence, Christianity, though retaining elements of barbaric ferocity in its theology, in its moral sentiment invariably tends to become maudlin, and its practice commonly to hypocrisy.

Now Positivism, while abandoning the theological side of Christianity, retains its introspective and individually, atomistic ethics. The ethical aim of Positivism, like that of Christianity, is the perfecting of the individual character, and nothing more; that is, it is a ethics in the same sense as the idealism of the modern philosophers, where the ethical aim is the improvement of the individual man, and the perfecting of the individual man's own development, conduct, and in refusing to be turned aside from this principle by specious attempts to reanimate the races and tag of a theological morality under another name. Morison is evidently sensible in a vague way of the distinction between Christian and personal morality ("Salvation" for its exponent) from the Positivist morality. For his part the Positivist is altogetherzealous for its own morality. Socialism alone, in effect, definitely abandons this old ethical standard, and the code of morality growing out of it, by proclaiming the general modern truth, that Social Happiness, in its plain sense, is the principle of the true conduct, and in refusing to be turned aside from this principle by specious attempts to reanimate the races and tag of a theological morality under another name.

"The right of man is to work and leisure, the right of the heart to right and charity, the right of the intellect to distinction, and the right of the soul to glory."—Andre Cousin. The truth is that Positivism has sunk in the former whole while rejecting the basis with which it is both logically and historically connected. Yours, fraternally.

A WORKER.—Your letter will be inserted in next number.

THE SOCIETY LEAGUE.

OFFICES: 13 FARRINGDON ROAD, E.C.

London Members.—The first meeting of London Members will be held on Tuesday, the 14th of July, at 8 o'clock, at the offices of the Society in Farringdon Road.

Library.—The Library is open to members of the Society League and affiliated bodies. LITERARY CATALOGUE, containing the Rules, 2d. D. N. Nocoll and W. W. Buncle are the Librarians.

Outdoor Lecturers.—A special meeting of the outdoor lecturers will be held at the Offices, 13 Farringdon Road, on Saturday June 25, at 7 p.m., for the pur- poses of considering the lecture list for coming quarter. Branches are specially requested to send delegates.

Resolution of Council.

"That all meetings collected for open-air meetings must be duly handed to the treasurer of the League, and the record of some acknowledged in Commissariat."--

BRANCH SUBSCRIPTIONS PAID.


"COMMONWEAL" PRINTING FUND.

Hammersmith Branch (two weeks), £1.

FOR PROPAGANDA.

Collected at Regent's Park, 5d. Collected at Bank Park, 5d. Pri. W., Treasurer, June 14.

THE NORWICH PRISONERS' AID FUND.

For Mrs. Monroe.—A Few Fabians, Annie Beattie (weekly), 10d. J. Lark, Treasurer.

REPORTS.

BLOOMSBURY.—On Thursday, June 9, Rev. Stewart D. Haldian lectured on "Christian Socialism" to a large audience. There was considerable discussion. After the lecture a business meeting of members was held. On Sunday, an open- air meeting was held in the park, and the meeting was closed by Mr. J. W. Waddell, who introduced the subject of Missions and the work of the Missionary Fund.—U. CLERKENWELL.—On Tuesday, June 8, W. W. Bartlett lectured on "The Story of the Society of Friends" with lively discussion followed. On Sunday, June 12, we held excellent meeting on Clerkenwell Green, addressed by Blundell White, and read a short paper by J. W. Waddell, on the subject of the work of the committee. The Thursday evening meeting was carried unanimously. Sold all literature we had with us, and took back from the station for Sunday morning. In our hall, after the outdoor meeting, a large audience had gathered to hear A. K. Donald on "The Chariot-makers of Clapham Heath." A very successful night taken altogether.—A. T. and W. H.