



"HAVE YOU NOT HEARD HOW IT HAS GONE WITH MANY A CAUSE BEFORE NOW: FIRST, FEW WE 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. only 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.

CORRESPONDENTS are asked to remember one or two things that most of them forget. The Editors and the Manager are separate and distinct people, with differing functions. Letters intended for one should not be addressed to the other. MSS., reports, notices, etc., are for the Editor; business communications and cash for the Manager. Letters addressed to any other person or sent to any other address are so at writer's own risk. Reports, notices, etc., should not all be mixed up together on one piece of paper and on both sides of that; this entails the labour of re-writing the whole thing, and we cannot afford the necessary time.

ENQUIRER.—We are trying to arrange for an exhaustive article upon the French National Workshops, of which you speak. You are right, they were never given a half-chance of success, but were ruined by bourgeois violence and intrigue.

E. and E. B. A.—Matter already in hand. See announcements elsewhere.

W. C. H. (New Cross).—Thanks for information. Bakounine's 'God and the State,' 1s. Reeves, Fleet Street.

Periodicals received during the week ending Wednesday October 5.

ENGLAND		Denver (Col.) Labor Enquirer	ITALY	
Justice		Hammonton (N.J.) Credit Foncier	Milan—Il Fascio Operaio	
Norwich—Daylight		N. Haven—Workmen's Advocate	Marsala—La Nuova Eta	
Labour Tribune		Detroit (Mich.)—The Advance	Rome—L'Emancipazione	
Londoner Arbeiter-Zeitung			Gazetta Operaia	
Church Reformer		FRANCE		SPAIN
Cotton Factory Times		Paris—Cri du Peuple (daily)		El Productor
Personal Rights Journal		Le Socialiste		Madrid—El Socialista
Jus		La Revolte		
	INDIA	Guise—Le Devoir		GERMANY
Bankipore—Behar Herald		Lille—Le Travailleur		Berlin—Volks Tribune
	CANADA			
Toronto—Labor Reformer		Liege—L'Avenir		AUSTRIA
	UNITED STATES	Ghent—Vooruit		Brunn—Volksfreund
New York—Der Sozialist		Antwerp—De Werker		HUNGARY
Volkszeitung		De Socialist		Arbeiter-Wochen-Chronik
Truthseeker		Brussels—L'Avant-Garde		ROUMANIA
Roston—Woman's Journal		Seraing (Ougree)—Le Reveil		Jassy—Lupta
Chicago (Ill.)—Labor Enquirer				DENMARK
Vorbote	HOLLAND	Hague—Recht voor Allen		Social-Demokraten
Milwaukee (Wis.)—Volksblatt		Amsterdam—Voorwaarts		SWEDEN
St. Louis (Mo.)—Die Parole	SWITZERLAND	Zurich—Sozial Demokrat		Stockholm—Social-Demokraten
				Malmö—Arbetet

FREE SPEECH IN AMERICA.

OUR readers will see that meetings to protest against the cold-blooded judicial murder of the seven Chicago prisoners are to be held within the next fortnight. Since this number of the *Commonweal* may come into the hands of persons who have not read other numbers and who have but a vague idea of the bearings of the whole case, or as is most likely, have been prejudiced by the misrepresentations of the press—the stark lies of the American capitalistic press, the careless lies of the English—it may be well to state briefly what the real crime of these men is in order that it may be determined whether their execution would be an act of justice or a crime.

These seven men are condemned to death for being present at a meeting called to protest against the murderous attack on a demonstration of workmen on strike by the police and the hired swashbucklers of the capitalists. At that meeting a bomb was thrown which killed and wounded several policemen. The police fired on the meeting, and the workmen defended themselves, and the capitalist government took this opportunity of hatching an accusation against our comrades, brought them to trial and condemned them in the teeth of the evidence. On their appeal they have been kept in prison for more than a year and re-condemned by a court which is practically the same as the first one. These men are really condemned for supporting the workmen in their strike and for speaking out their opinions on the vile, miscalled "Society" of America and civilisation generally. They are persecuted for holding and expressing the opinions which we hold and express whether we call ourselves Anarchists or Socialists, and for applying those opinions to the events of the passing day and the oppression of

the American workmen going on under their eyes. Their persecution is an *in terrorem* measure directed against freedom of speech in America; and it will be a disgrace to the British workmen, whatever their politics may be, if they do not express themselves clearly and emphatically on this attack on the liberties which the United States have been supposed to guard so jealously, but which it would seem are but a one-sided affair after all. We appeal, above all, to our Radical and Democratic friends who are now trying to destroy the base anti-Irish prejudice once so current in this country, not to consider men outside the pale of fair-dealing because they express revolutionary ideas; and to remember that whether they may think our Socialist theories right or wrong, we claim at least equal liberty for all, and that amidst the present welter of politics in which reaction is struggling so hard to lift up its head, if we do not guard the liberties we have won with the utmost care and jealousy we shall find them encroached on day by day till at last Radicals will have no more doubt than Socialists that they are the slaves of the rich and powerful in all senses.

WILLIAM MORRIS.

CONDITION OF WORKERS.

FARINGDON, BERKS, AND NEIGHBOURHOOD.

THIS is a fair example of a farming neighbourhood in Berkshire or Oxfordshire. Population of town 3,139.

Wages mostly 10s. weekly in summer, 9s. in winter half of year for farm workers; least wages of men 8s., boys less. Extra money in harvest, or at Michaelmas, but much less than formerly. More for some kinds of work. Usual time of hiring, old Michaelmas Day, for the year, but sometimes half year. Some landowners keep on their labourers without lowering the wages agreed upon in more prosperous times, and only dismiss for "misconduct." At Coleshill, the Earl of Radnor also gives a pension of 7s. weekly to men who in his service have become too old or infirm to work. In the town of Faringdon live many whose wages are no higher as a rule, but who go out as extra hands in summer, and are out of work in the winter. Houses and small gardens in the villages sometimes free in addition to wages. Before the equalisation of poor rates within each union, many cottages were pulled down to drive the people into the towns, from which they have not returned to the country. At Coleshill, an example of a "model village," a house which probably cost £300 to build, and a good sized garden, are provided for each family, at a rent of five guineas a year. In Oxfordshire those landowners have done best who have improved the old picturesque grey stone and stone slated cottages, instead of building new ones. In Faringdon the rent of a cottage with a small garden is in most cases 2s. 6d. a week, and no allowance in wages is made to meet the rent.

Allotments can generally be rented at the same rate per acre as the farms, which is from 10s. per annum upwards, with great differences for different land, and various arrangements as to parochial rates and tithe, £2 an acre free is not unusual. It is usual for the employer in the Wantage district to plough the labourer's potato or corn allotment gratis, but sometimes he changes the ground allotted from year to year. In the town of Faringdon are some cheap allotments called The Sands, belonging to a "charity"; but the rest are let at the rate of £10 and some even £16 per acre yearly.

Remarks.—The workers dare not take any steps to help themselves without the protection of some great patron like Lord Wantage, or of the shopkeepers, to which last both farmers and workers are much in debt. The small shopkeepers are almost ruined by the large ones, and a further lowering of wages would surely stop them from recovering debts from labourers.

Witney, Oxfordshire.—Blanket making is still carried on here. The machinery is driven chiefly by water power. Wages 10s. weekly for women, one loom each; no men employed except the foremen.

Connorville in Minster Lovel parish, near Witney, founded by Feargus O'Connor. In spite of former mismanagement and present heavy burdens, the allotment holders, having security of tenure, are able to plant fruit trees, and know how to farm better than the original colonists, but have to seek further employment outside their "small holdings," or take several holdings.

Lechlade, pop. 1,176, and Buscot, pop. 371. Wages.—Eight years ago labourers got 15s. weekly. There has been much piece work also, and contract work. Steam ploughmen by piecework might make 30s. weekly. In farming work this has for the most part come to an end, and there is more dairy work by regular labourers. Weekly wages now 12s. with many exceptions, better or worse; a few still get as much as 15s. Boys, 6s. or 7s.; old women, for half time, about 4s., extra money in harvest balanced by deductions in winter. Mechanics may still earn as much as 30s. weekly, but generally less. There is an iron foundry in Lechlade; the ordinary trades are much combined, many small employers working with their men, and carrying on more than one trade assisted by the same men. Most men can also work on the land, they are thus more than usually independent.

Houses with gardens in Buscot, 1s., in Lechlade, 2s. weekly; sometimes given in addition to wages from 11s. to 14s.

Allotments in Buscot at rate of £3 4s. per acre yearly with parochial rates in addition, but not tithe, this rent being 4s. per acre more than the rest of the farm under the same landowners. In Lechlade, a large