

TRUE ECONOMY.

WORK FOR FOOD AND FOOD FOR WORK.

It would seem madness to some of the very superior persons who are called Professors of Political Economy, to say that they had best burn their books and study Ebenezer Elliott, and yet in his works will be found some very useful matter and argument in support of a complete revolution in the matter of what is called "Poor Relief." In the preface to "The Splendid Village" is an argument which is rapidly coming home to the property owners, who are finding the realisable values being gradually eaten away by the constantly and rapidly increasing load of debt, for which local rates are pledged for many years ahead. The "Loans" which local authorities are raising on the security of the ratepayer's property is, much of it, extravagantly and corruptly expended on "Pauper Palaces," and the result of twenty-five years of such work is now beginning to be understood.

A curious return has just been presented to the City of London Poor Law Guardians. One woman had been in and out of the work-house twenty-three years and 148 days, had two children, was only twenty-seven years of age, and had already cost the ratepayers £382. Another single woman was aged thirty-four, who had three children in the schools, and who had cost £540. A third was thirty-seven years of age, and had cost the parish £750. These three single women with their ten children had cost the ratepayers over £1,600. Hurrah! So much for "our sturdy English common-sense and business capacity" of which we hear so much twaddle. Where is the business capacity after all, which drives the price of labour down and makes it up in parish doles to the mother—with the addition of a degraded pauper-bred race of starvelings?

PAUPER CHILDREN.

"Dwarfish, famish'd, and weakly stooping,
Bloodless fingers beside them drooping,
Listless, lifeless, and nothing hoping,—

Pauper babes are these :

Smileless, aged, and woe-begone,
With the prominent jaws of the skeleton,
And filmy eyes, and faces brown—
Like the face of a beast—with a horrible down—
Look on them, Landlord! look and own,
Not flesh of thy flesh, but bone of thy bone,
Stalks from the seed which thou hast sown,
Thine by thy Famine-whip, Heart of stone!

Begetter of miseries!

Lo! where body and soul starvation,
Idiot grinning Emaciation,
Is nursing the youth of the nation

but what carest thou?

Landed Cain, with the branded brow,
Who rivest the heart with famine's plough,
Strewing wild hate where grain should grow.
Curse him loudly! but tremble too,
For the curse returneth again to you,
Whose wrath stood by while your fellow slew:
Murder's Accomplish the whole week through!

Hypocrite, on thy knees,

Grumbling that time will make all things even,
Mumbling profitless one day in seven,
'Of such is the kingdom of heaven!'

"The curse is returning," and some of the ratepayers are beginning to see it; a few more returns of the cost of hereditary pauperism will possibly arouse a few more ratepayers to the extravagance of the pauper-breeding-capitalist-competitive-system. To take one case out of many. Not long since some £120,000 was spent for a new "work" house for St. Saviour's, not the largest parish in London. I am dealing here, so far as possible, with cold-blooded facts and figures, but yet can hardly help calling to aid some of the invective poured by Carlyle on that Pest House the Poor House. Pest House in the truest sense of the term, for it is proved now that these immense pauper barracks are centres of a constantly increasing contagion; are in no possible manner a remedy but the very reverse. The above curious return is only one proof of many. Pauper mothers have pauper children by pauper fathers, and bred up as paupers, started in life as paupers, many, if not most, grow up as paupers, and return to their early home to finish in a pauper's grave.

Instead of spending £120,000 in such a pauper-breeding cage, had the money been spent in a manner which would give an opportunity for reproductive labour for the benefit of the absolute labourer, instead of for a vast gang of highly-paid swindling officials (*vide* Eastern Hospitals Inquiry and Metropolitan Board of Works Inquiry), pauperism would be killed and not cultivated.

The one greatest preventive is the land monopolist, and this is constantly being shown in the fact that in every suggestion made to deal extensively with the question of the unemployed, the first look is towards the land and food production. Rev. Herbert V. Mills' very second-hand "Poverty and the State," is one recent work in this direction; and during the last three or four days there have been three or four different and distinct meetings and conferences on precisely the same lines. A festival in aid of the Philanthropic Society's Farm School at Redhill, was held at Willis's Rooms, with an earl presiding. At Westminster Palace Hotel a meeting of the Society for Promoting Industrial Villages. In the report of the proceedings it is stated, with considerable truth I think: "It was by no means so necessary to the working-classes that they should secure the greatest possible cheapness in the articles they wanted to purchase, as that they

should have the means of purchasing at all," and further, that good food and occupation could be secured even here in England if only "the best use was made of the land."

Closer still in connection with the report on the expensive pauper mothers, was a Conference of Metropolitan Poor Law Guardians, when Rev. S. A. Barnett (Vicar of St. Jude's, Whitechapel) read a paper urging the employment on the land of the unskilled labourers in our poor-houses. Workless Workers for Unworked Land is also to be carefully considered by a special Committee of the Mansion House Fund, and is plainly one of the first points to attack. Before any great progress is made, however, one or two serious breaches will be made in orthodox teachings. "Agriculture don't pay" is a term which has become a fetish; that it don't pay because some idler wants two ears of corn out of every three, is left aside.

Now that "curious returns" are proving we are fast returning to the state of 1833, when whole parishes were thrown up as valueless by reason of the Poor Rate being more than the value, perhaps property owners will reconsider.

THOS. SHORE, jun.

REVOLUTIONARY CALENDAR.

WEEK ENDING AUGUST 18, 1888.

12	Sun.	1793. Peart and Belcher convicted of selling Paine.
13	Mon.	1845. Labour Riot at Dunfermline. 1881. E. J. Trelawney died. 1882. W. S. Jevons drowned.
14	Tues.	1794. Trial of Robert Watt for high treason. 1884. Nihilist explosion at Kazan. 1886. French workmen delegates in London.
15	Wed.	1797. Trial of John Binns for seditious words. 1839. Trial of Rev. J. R. Stephens for inciting to riot. 1843. Great Repeal Demonstration on the Hill of Tara. 1886. Socialist demonstration in Brussels.
16	Thur.	1678. Andrew Marvell died. 1819. Peterloo Massacre. 1851. Lopez garotted. 1886. Workmen's Party Congress at Mons.
17	Fri.	1842. "Seditious" placard issued by Chartists at Manchester.
18	Sat.	1746. Lords Balmerino and Kilmarnock beheaded for rebellion. 1789. Declaration of Rights of Man at Versailles. 1839. Chartist church parades.

Death of W. Stanley Jevons.—This distinguished political economist ensured his immortality in the history of the science by discovering, and compelling the economic world to accept, what is now universally¹ regarded as the true theory of exchange value. His other contributions to economics were of temporary or secondary importance, although these, with the rest of his works, all contain striking ideas, applied with vigour, wide knowledge of facts, and patient common-sense. But his principle that normal value is the ratio between the relative "final" utilities of the commodities (that is, between the estimated nett utility to the person in question of the last item of each commodity) has now definitely succeeded the crude form of its rival, the Smith-Ricardo-Marx "labour cost" theory. The two theories are, however, seen to harmonise, upon a proper recognition of the "law of diminishing return," and normal value may therefore now be stated indifferently as a ratio either between final (marginal) utilities, or between the respective costs of production of the most costly item of the contemporary supply of each commodity, according as the psychological or the industrial point of view is the more apposite. Jevons hit upon this idea of "final utility" as a youth, and communicated it to the world at a British Association meeting in 1860; although he had been anticipated by Walras, Cournot, and other foreign economists, it made no impression until the publication in 1871 of his 'Theory of Political Economy,' a work otherwise remarkable as the revival of an attempt to treat economics mathematically (2nd edition, enlarged, 1879). His work on 'Money and the Mechanism of Exchange' (1875), remains the best exposition of matters of currency; but Socialists will be more interested in 'The State in Relation to Labour' (1882), in which he definitely discarded the principle of *laissez faire*. His other chief works were 'Pure Logic' (1864), 'The Coal Question' (1865), 'The Substitution of Similars' (1869), 'The Principles of Science' (1874), 'Studies in Deductive Logic' (1880), 'Investigations in Currency and Finance' (1884, edited by Professor H. S. Foxwell), and innumerable economic and social essays. His shilling 'Primer of Political Economy' is the cheapest good book on the subject. His work in economics is essentially that of a transition period. Though revolting against the individualism of Ricardo and Mill's earlier manner, he never completely realised the idea of social organism, and he failed accordingly to determine the relation between aggregate social utility and the "final utility" of the "catallactic atoms" which did duty to him for man. His last work shows, however, a great advance in this respect, and his premature drowning by accident when bathing cut short what would probably have been a life of increasing usefulness in these days of economic ignorance in high places.—S. W.

Andrew Marvell.—Among all the black crimes of that crafty, heartless, super-sensual despot, Charles Stuart the younger, facetiously called the "Merry Monarch," and blesser of his country with so many royal graces to-day, no crime can compare in black-hearted wantonness with the secret assassination of Andrew Marvell. Marvell never professed to be an enemy of royalty, but he was an enemy of sham and dishonesty of all kinds. In a glaringly rotten age, he might almost be called the one honest man in England. Priestcraft, kingcraft, statecraft, and every other craft, had in turn assailed his true metal, and tried to leave a smirch, but all in vain. That superlative corrupter of a whole nation, Charles the Second, could not abide that one honest eye should spy upon his career, or that one honest tongue should remain to tell the shameful tale. After trying all manner of bribes to corrupt the member for Hull, nothing remained but to remove Marvell by secret poison. It is a notorious example of the tenacious sycophancy of royal lick-spittles that the church custodians of St. Giles-in-the-Field, where the bones of the incorruptible patriot repose, refuse to have any inscription placed there to his memory. It is also worthy of note, as a sample of the impudent ignorance of that party in the country proclaiming themselves as "conservative" *par excellence*, that Marvell, the brightest example of an honest legislator, was the last to receive from his constituents the time-honoured payment rife in the days when men went to Westminster to defend the rights of their constituents, not to arrange stock-jobbing thievery for themselves.—L. W.

¹ *I.e.*, by the Jevonian wing of the "orthodox" economists.—W. M.