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 practical advice and arguments in favour 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 reduced. One of the causes of the continually 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 money, is an extravagance dependent 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 workhouse 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 £240. A third was thirty-seven years of age, and had cost the parish £730. These three single women with their ten children had cost the ratepayers over £1,600. Hurrah! So much for "our sturdy Englishman 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 pay does to the mother—with the addition of a degraded pauper-bred race of starvings?

PAUPER CHILDREN.

Dwarfish, familial, and weakly stooping,
Bloodless fingers beside them drooping.
Lisliss, lifeless, and nothing hoping.
Pauper babies are these:
Smileless, aged, and woe-begone,
With ribbons girded of the skeleton,
And flinty eyes, and faces brown—
Like the face of a ghost—with a horrid down—
Look on them, Landlord! look and own,
Not flesh of thy flesh, but bone of thy bone,
Starved from the sea and starved from thee,
Thine by thy Fenian-whip, Heart of stone!

Begetter of miseries!

Lo! where the noble soul starved and wan,
Idiot grinning Emanation,
Is nursing of the youth of the nation,
And yet what carest thou?
Landlord, with the branded brow.
Whence the woe, and whence the woe?—
Strewing wild where grain should grow,
Curse him loudly! but tremble too,
For the curse returneth again to you,
Whose womb stood by while your fellow slew:
Murder's Accomplite the whole week through!

Hypocrisy, on thy knees,
Grumbling that time will make all things even,
Murder's accomplice in all.
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 works. A single 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 truculent 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, served 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 cag, had the money been wisely spent, it would give an opportunity for reproductive labour for the benefit of the absolute labourer, instead of for a vast gang of highly-paid swelling officials (vide Eastern Hospitals Inquest and Medical Board of Works Inquiry), pauperism would be killed and not cultivated.

The one greatest preventative is the land monopolist, and this is constantly being shown in the fact that in every suggestion made to deal extensively and directly with the agricultural problem, a call is made 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 there are between three or four days there have been three or four different and distinct papers and pamphlets, all to the same effect. A festival in aid of the Philanthropic Society's Farm School at Redhill, was held at Willis's Rooms, with an early proceeding. Mr. Robert A. Bruce wore a medal 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-labouring works, was a communication of the Metropolitan Police, which Rev. S. A. Barrett (Vicar of St. Jude's, Whitechapel) read a paper urging the employment on the land of the unskilled labourers in our poor-houseless. Workless Workers for Unworked Land is also to be early considered as a special meeting of the House of Lords. A 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 necessary to the practical difficulties. The most obvious breach must, after all, become a fetis; 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 Ireland, where whole families were thrown up 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. Pearl and Belcher convicted of selling Pain.
17 Fri. 1842. "Seditious" placard issued by Chartists at Manchester.

Death of W. Stanley Jevons.—This distinguished political economist ensured his immortalitv in a controversy on the application of the economic to the ideal of the economic world to accept, what is now universally regarded as the true theory of value exchange. His other contributions to economics were of temporary or secondary importance, although he was, with the rest of his works, make every attempt to avoid the expressed purpose of the Royal Economic Society, "to contain the most perfect of the reformed coinage, monetary exchange, and the "final utility" of the commodities (that is, between the estimated net 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 "labor cost" theory. The two theories are, however, seen to harmonise, upon a proper recognition that utility is the law of diminishing returns, and normal value may now be seen to be related in a similar way to both marginal (marginal) utilities, or between the respective rates of production of the two costly items and the temporary supply of each commodity, according to the psychological or the industry price of view in the former case, and the opposite, the "final utility" of the commodity, as a youth, and communicated it to the world at a British Association meeting in 1850; although he had been anticipated by Walras, Cournot, and other foreign economists, it is perhaps his connection with the journal "Political Economy," a work otherwise remarkable as the revival of an attempt to treat economics scientifically in England, and his "Science of Money and the Mechanism of Exchange" (1857), remains the best exposition of modern theory. Socialists will be more interested in his "Socialism and Liberalism's Relation to Labour" (1866). While he always discouraged the principle of laissez faire. His other chit works were 'Pure Logic' (1864). "The Coal Question" (1867). "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 revolving against the individualism of Ricardo and Mill's earlier manner, he never completely realised the idea of social organisation, and his failed attempts to determine the "final utility" and the "final utility" of the "catastrophic ato" which did duty to labor at once. His work shows the true spirit of the political economist, and his premature drowning by accident when bathing cut short what probably would have been a life of increasing usefulness in these days of economic progress in high places. W.

Andrew Marvell.—Among all the black crimes of that crafty, hothearted, superhuman repentant, Charles the Stuart, facetiously called the " Merry Monarch," and lion of the country who stood so high and so low, to compare in black-hearted wretchedness with the secret assassination of Marvell, Marvell never professed to be an enemy of royalist causes, but he was as famous for his love of sham and majesty of all the \

1 See, by the Yeoman's wing of the "orthodox" economists. W. M.