NOTES ON NEWS.

GLADSTONE-WORSHIP is well on now among the faithful of the Liberal party, and is carried to such lengths that one cannot help thinking that some of the party must have doleful forebodings as to its future when their god takes his departure from the earth. What will be left of Liberalism when this one old man has gone? with his astonishing physical vigour, his belief in himself, his capacity of shutting his eyes to everything that his momentary political position allows him to see, and his keen delight in playing the political game?

However, at present, there seems little need for us to speculate on what a future may hold. We are not yet inclined to think that he may outlive the present political and social system now growing so costly. May it be so!

His Dover speech will be thought a fine specimen, I suppose, and indeed it was brim and combative enough from his own point of view, though he announced his intention of fighting after the fashion of the pre-Napoleonic dough all when it's time. He boasts of his doing so in the Jingro period and chuckled over the result. Well, his soft fighting was discouraging enough in those days, but after all it was perhaps good enough for the occasion, for the Jingros and Dizy at that stage, not being real savages: they only meant braggling — I admit that we didn't know it at the time.

After all this the victorious oracle of the Liberal Idol, in spite of all its works, was as free from any practical and social aspect of things as if it were delivered in another planet: except perhaps when he touched on the Protection v. Free Trade matter, he didn't talk about what people are thinking about, but what they are talking about, and indeed that is usual with him, and with all popularity hunters: because by the time a thing has become generally talked of by the thinkers have got to the next subject.

The Tories have been trying a little "dish" in Ireland, to see if it may count for a make-weight against their "resolve" Government there; they have reduced the judicial rents in the teeth of Lord Salisbury's declaration that they were to be considered fixed. The result of their experiment is not encouraging at present; the Nationalists do not accept it as a blessing, very naturally looking at it as at once a blow at the Plan of Campaign and a base plagiarism on it; and the Loyalties also very naturally in a fury at it, and are pulling themselves together to get compensation from the British taxpayer, which indeed Lord Salisbury promised them. If he redeems his promise the Tories had best arrange for the fresh variance of the opposition benches for their behoof.

This matter is a fresh example of the slippery noodle which our present party always makes; it allows a privileged class to rob the people of the means of production, asserting in high words and hard deeds "the rights of property," and then from time to time takes arbitrarily from one group or another of the privileged some small portion of the plunder it has allowed them and encouraged them to acquire; and all the while, whatever it does, insists at least upon this, that there shall always be a class of hewers of wood and drawers of water to be benefited by this—Socialism as some sage-minded people are pleased to call it.

The death of John Frost in Pentonville prison is one of those events which would let in a little light on the public as to the prison system and its administration, if people were really trying to see; but probably as it is there will be little learned by it. An obviously sick man is condemned to 20 months' imprisonment, and when he gets to the prison is treated as if he were not sick but shamming; and at last "shams" so persistently that he is clearly at the point of death, when he is taken to the prison hospital and "treated kindly," but carries on his "shamming" till he dies. No one who knows anything about our prisons can doubt that this kind of thing is common enough; only the victims don't always die in prison.

It speaks volumes for the way in which the prison officials treat the luckless men who have fallen into their power, that the wife after "trying to see the governor and being told that he was away," in "suffered her communication as much as possible, so that matters might-not be made worse for her husband." And that the prisoner told her "to make no complaint to the prison authorities lest he should fare worse in consequence." Do any moral well-to-do persons, who have little more chance of going to prison than they have of being made kings, understand what that means? It is time that they should learn this amongst other pieces of knowledge, in order that other may understand what class-based means and what it may lead to.

Thos. Ansell, of Deptford, 88 years old, and his wife, who was 77, were very obtinate people who would not go to "the palatial dwelling miscalled a workshop," because of the inhuman treatment there awaited them. Rather than be put asunder after 56 years of love and mutual aid by the red-tape of Bumberland, they kept on battling until increasing infirmity until they could no more. Then "the parish" gave them "outdoor relief."

The two poor old people were accorded the princely sum of 3s. 6d. per week, out of which they had to pay 3s. rent "and live" on the balances. Ansell is dead of hunger and cold, and his brave old wife is undergoing at last the torture she avoided so long—the slow death of the workhouse. Such things add a bitter point to Cardinal Manning's attack on the present method of "relief."

Day after day, as we have been reading on the one hand of great feasting by the fortunate, and also of their loudly-vaunted "charity" to their more hapless fellow, so on the other hand have come reports of deaths from exposure, and horrible cases of poverty, and degradation. At no time is the baleful effect of the present system shown so clearly as at periods like that just past, which custom has decreed a festival-tide. But the time passes by, and the lesson is unlearnt, or if learnt is unappllied. How long will it go on?

The attention of all readers is directed to the announcement in another column of the intended publication of the speeches and "trial" of our Chicago comrades. This is a work in which all should help as it is at once raising them a monument and making good propagandas.

POLICE SPIES EXPOSED.

There have always been found by the governments of all countries trained ready to work in the political party, including the Socialist, and by worming themselves into the confidence of the members, obtain their secrets to betray them, or by getting up dynamite plots and things of that kind, to arouse public feeling against the movement. Many other devices are there in the armoury of a tyrant, and in the days of the Third Empire they were carried as men thought, to the utmost pitch of a devilish perfection. It has been left however for Bismarck and his underlings to attain a yet higher (or lower) degree of skill and completeness of plan. Since the coming into effect of the anti-Socialist laws in Germany, 1879, police-spying, or the trade of head-monger and lie-smith, has become a regular department of governmental work, an Institution for more inwound with the existence of the State than even in the corruptest days of Napoleon the Little. Not only does Germany look after folk within her own borders, but provides them with careful friends in every city where Socialists are to be found; thus it is really an international political secret police, that is maintained and worked from Berlin. Our well-known co-worker, the Sozialdemokrater of Zürich, has always been trying to get hold of the secrets of this organisation, and has now and then succeeded in bringing facts to light, that spoiled some single plot, or exposed some spy. Of course it has had to bear the fate of the outspoke, and is often abused among a certain set as an organ of denunciation. The editor should it be praised for the courage with which it follows up a foe of the cause, and the skill with which it cuts open the disguise of a false friend, and shows the reptile underneath. Der Sozialdemokrat deserves the thanks of all honest Socialists for its efforts in casting light upon a hideous host of vermin, and so depriving them of their power to betray. In its issue of December 24th is given a list
of names of men who are now in the pay of the police-bureau. We assure our readers of the accuracy of the information.

The following are as follows:


2. Charles Theodore Reuss, formerly theatrical impresario and concert-agent; now police-spy in London (7 years in pay). Winner of the Coburg prize in the Congress of the United States of America, the Cable News of New York; contributor to the Stuttgarter Presse at Stuttgart; now police-spy in Berlin. Police-spy in London (6 years and 6 months in pay).


4. Heinrich, formerly engineer, now publican at Zerich.


9. H. Neve, teacher, formerly in London; now in Paris (at the police-station).

10. Lower, Schweinsingen, at Magdeburg.

11. Lower, Altenberg, agent (5 years in pay).

12. Neumann, carpenter at Hanover.


We need not further warn our readers against these despicable creatures, but may profitably add a word or two on those employed in London. Sachs has been for some time away doing some special political business in the South of France and on the Spanish and Italian frontiers. In London he specially took care of the German Commission, and was at the time of the Mor's trial here he was a contributor to the Freilicht, and took away from the printing-office a lot of copy which had appeared in the paper; all that is a matter of public record. In the Berlin police-court, amongst other things, caused the arrest of several Anarchists at Leipzig, Nürnberg, Augsburg and Berlin; was concerned in several so-called "Anarchist trials in Vienna; and with the aid of his accomplices, Joseph Podack, a so-called "alia non jurator," ran the street-carriage of the so-called "Schweinhage and Neve," was taken and condemned. In another line of business he has to work the press in order to manufacture "public opinion" in favour of the police-officers, and disseminate the most injurious results of the law and treaties. At the late troubles in Talagir Supersaugh, and Hyde Park, he was particularly active in this way. His blood money is 450 marks a month (£22 10s.). It is interesting to know that he conducted the police-court, Police-court of the so-called "Fumagalli," Chief of German Secret Police, directly at Kaiserin Auguste Strasse, 72, Berlin, or indirectly through either E. Fumagalli, Court Jeweller, 138, Leipzig, or B. F. M., W. M., a police-sergeant at Berlin, formerly Chief of Police at Frankfort, now Police-Courtesan at Berlin (or Carl Morf), an Austrian "Anarchist," who was furnished, from means provided by him, the police, to Stellungacker and Kammerer the numerous various attempts at Vienna. After the death of his victims he was expelled from Switzerland. Ordered to London by his master, he has lived here ever since. For a time secretary of the Third Section, he is now partner in the "City Club," a well-known revolutionary in the English and German police.

We may have to return to this theme again, but have said enough for the present.

EDITORS.

Mr. Winn, the Baltimore millionaire, now holds sporting rights over 200,000 acres in Scotland—a tract of land almost as large as Bedfordshire. The former owner pays Mr. Winn annually a fee for the right to perpetuate solitude, and meantime help is supposed to be furnished to 100,000 people in America.

WYATT PATERSON.—The weekly return of municipal paupers shows that the total number of paupers relieved in the third week of last month was 108,998, of whom 99,612 were indoor and 4,386 outdoor paupers. The total number relieved showed during the week of last week, 8,429 over 1888, and 9,458 over 1884. The total number of paupers relieved on the last day of the week was 1,075, of whom 940 were men, 116 women, and 17 children.

A son of old John Brown writes to the Alarm and desires to know what Anarchism really is. He concludes his letter with the following words: "Agitate and educate, but let us mind the light. In our zeal for the welfare of those whom we are supposed to help, let us not stumble over and put out the light we have laboriously lighted. That those who are truly in want of it, let us not forget them. That the destruction of the public is the destruction of the poor; that the destruction of the poor is the destruction of the public; let us not forget it. That twenty-six years ago my father was judicially murdered at Charleston, Va., for his political opinions. The cause of the labourers of African descent in America. Now we perceive that emancipation, the emancipation of the black, is the destruction of the bonds of chattel slavery. May heaven grant to all the people of our beloved country to also perceive this and to govern themselves accordingly." John Brown, jun., appears to be a true chip of the old block.

FEDERAL OF THE CHEROKEE MOUNTAIN.—At the same time that the worker of London were escorting Linsell to the grave, our five comrades in Chicago were being forcibly expelled, by the common stock of the common people—about 15 miles. In spite of that about 5,000 persons attended the funeral, and a large crowd gathered in Radford's Cemetery. Speeches were made by Capt. Black, Paul Grottkau, and E. F. Currim, and most enthusiastically applauded. J. R. Buchanan directed the ceremony. A band gave a dirge. The bodies of all the five murdered were then placed on the hearse and taken to the grave. The features of the two bodies of the murdered were life-like, the embalming process was a success, and the counterfeit pink flesh of life was on the cheeks; now the coffin was lowered into the grave. At the bottom of the receptacle is a block of granite, on which rests a bed of cement. Granite blocks are the walls, and the top is formed by two blocks of granite. The grave was covered with five cobs. Mrs. Parsons and Miss Spies painted, and had to be removed. May the memory of our martyred comrades become as speedy as powerful as they desired it.—C.