

Freedom

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NOTES.

The Government Help the Rich.

The generosity with which the Government have come to the aid of the financial and commercial classes is in striking contrast to their treatment of the less fortunate victims of the war. With a promptness only displayed by the governmental machine when its own supporters are in danger, arrangements were made for safeguarding the interests of the wealthy, which can leave no doubt whatever as to which side the State and its resources are thrown. The moratorium declared when war became certain protected only the wealthy, and in no way considered the relief of the poorer ones. The indemnification of banks against loss in the discounting of bills will, says the *Times*, cost anything from £50,000,000 to £100,000,000. This for the financiers; but what of the wives of reservists and others called up for service, who were compelled to seek relief in order to eke out the scanty allowance of the parsimonious War Office, submitting to the degrading inquiries of the Charity Organisation Society, etc.? No thought here of protecting Tommy's interests. No action to indemnify those workers who have lost employment or had wages reduced as a consequence of the war; not even an attempt to save the Penny Bank, a workers' institution. Yet these are the real victims, real because they can only submit, and the few shillings lost to them per week are essentially more vital than the thousands lost by those whom the Government have indemnified, and who will still have a few thousands left with which to struggle along, with the almost certain possibility of a big scoop when the war is over.

Just the Same in France.

It is not, however, in England only that the State machine operates thus, for in France also urgent measures have been passed to safeguard the interests of Capital, and further enrich the rich. Arrangements have been made by which holders of the old 3½ per cent. stock can exchange it for the new War Loan at 4½ or even 5 per cent. The Paris correspondent of the *Daily Telegraph* says that "this would be very advantageous to the bearer of these securities, especially to those with large capital." And further on he says: "To sum, up the difference between the paid-up Rente certificates and those that are partly paid up will be considerable, therefore a great stimulus will be given to powerful financial combinations to liberate their stock in new Rentes, and the small but patriotic holders will, as always, be sacrificed." No doubt this is not the aim of the Government, but the fact remains." How simple the writer is! Why, of course, it is the aim of the Government. Patriotism is for the people, but profits are for the rich financiers who control the Governments.

Labour M.P.'s as Recruiting Agents.

Trade Union leaders seem to have developed a sudden love of and admiration for the Government and the ruling classes, a fact which is one of the many remarkable incidents of the war. Will Crooks, we read, led the chorus in the House of Commons, Arthur Henderson and Will Thorne are stumping the country as recruiting agents, and the Labour Party's Parliamentary agent is one of the secretaries of the committee formed for organising recruiting meetings. Thus has the British Labour Party redeemed its pledge of international solidarity, prated about so loudly by these "leaders of Labour." We wonder how they will square their actions when they are called upon to fight the masters whom they are so busily engaged in assisting now. Presumably, as before, a pretence will be made at fighting; but surely the workers must realise the true character of these sycophants.

Destruction of Rheims Cathedral.

The destruction of the beautiful cathedral of Rheims, a wanton act in the wasteful business of war, is a matter of regret. Such destruction is, we suppose, what one must expect when the machines of murder run amok. We cannot, however, share the general opinion that this is one of the severest blows of all, for, whilst to us the destruction of the beautiful is always to be deplored, this particular act is not worse than the many acts of destruction carried out in the great war on the industrial field. "A poem in stone," a French writer once wrote of Rheims cathedral, and we agree; but what of the human poems—women and children daily sacrificed with scarcely a note from the very press which to-day is reviling the German soldiers. How often we read of women killed by the industrial machine, children made prematurely old, weakened and ill-nourished, all by the same monster, the twin of militarism. We can only hope that those who have cried out so loudly recently will take up the cry of these helpless victims with as much fervour as they have taken to heart the destruction of Rheims. A reference book of newspaper cuttings taken now would serve a useful purpose in proving the absolute hypocrisy and self-interestedness of those noble patriots who prate so long and loudly of freedom and honour.

The Distribution of Relief.

The treatment of the many recruits in the matter of pay, food, etc., should check the impulsive patriotism of the youth of the country who are flocking to offer themselves as food for cannon. The following dialogue recently took place between a reservist's wife and a benevolent and patriotic official of a local relief fund. The woman's husband had gone to join his regiment and she was left penniless. Enquiry at the local authority proved to her how much, or rather how little, the powers really care for these helpless victims. "Had your husband been in constant employment?" "Yes, fairly regularly." "Did you not then save any money?" "No, we couldn't afford it." "Well, if you had been thrifty, you would not now have been forced to ask for help. How many rooms have you?" "Three." "Well, you need only two now your husband has gone away. Have you pawned anything yet? You could get £5 for your piano. Your children look pretty well. Have you any friends who would take your children whilst you go out to work?" The woman, disgusted and upset at this impertinent catechism and the quiet assumption that her husband would not come back, left the office without troubling further about relief from such a source. But think of the hundreds who will willingly submit to all these indignities because "King and country" have called.

TO MOTHERHOOD.

A wee babe born with pangs and tears,
A nursling by the cradle sung,
A youngster waxing through the years,
To manhood sprung.

A drear, dank plain, a blood-red sun,
A place the very home of tears;
Sabre and rifle, lance and gun;
A thousand biers.

Mothers of England, War's grim pow'r
Nor heeds nor knows your anguish deep:
Your sons have joined in one brief hour
The hosts of sleep.

L. A. MOTLER.

ANARCHY.—A social theory which regards the union of order with the absence of all direct government of man by man as the political ideal.—*Century Dictionary*.

THE LABOUR MOVEMENT IN AMERICA.

It is surely a platitude to say that each country must create its own forms and methods of emancipation, but, platitude or no platitude, we are compelled to say it. Even when artificial boundaries separate countries, as is the case with the United States, Canada, and Mexico, there is a difference that must be reckoned with, although here an almost imperceptible levelling process is taking place. The Labour movement of the United States and Canada (and by the term Labour movement we mean the economic organisation of the workers manifested in Trade Unions) has one great difficulty to contend with that is either non-existent or at least a negligible factor in the movement in Europe. It is admitted by all who have made a study of the situation, that the class issue is much clearer in Europe than it is here, clearer because there are fewer things to cloud the relation of Capital and Labour. With rare exceptions, working men there remain working men, and there is much less of that gambling spirit that makes men believe in the possibility of rising out of their class. The rise of the Parliamentary movement in Europe has opened avenues for more remunerative employment for the leaders of Labour, removing some of them from the real Labour struggle; but even where this is the case, they find it necessary to retain some connection with the masses. In America there are many things of a purely capitalist nature that wean the ablest men and women away from the class struggle. This has its good and its bad features: by the time men have reached the highest position in their respective organisations they have acquired middle-class tastes, habits, and inclinations that the Labour movement is unable to gratify; but when their removal is accomplished a certain deadening influence has been eliminated.

Most of the influential Labour leaders of this country started their careers as radicals, and some even as revolutionists, and their "sane, practical methods of organisation" came with increasing years and incomes—chiefly incomes. The bastard Individualism of this continent has narrowed the spirit of solidarity to such an extent that craft Unionism has for thirty years retarded the growth of a conscious revolutionary movement. The Knights of Labour fell before this principle, and the American Federation of Labour rose and prospered on its ruins, with the result that a tighter and tighter form of organisation has developed among the skilled trades. They have on many occasions shown a real fighting spirit and high form of solidarity among their own ranks, but it has been narrowed to the point of brutality when displayed against those outside the breastworks. Entrance fees of one hundred, and even five hundred dollars are not uncommon, and the members of such Unions have been and are quite outspoken in their determination to corner their particular labour market, and exclude others who wish to join them. The fear of poverty, a desire for a higher plane of material well-being, and the knowledge that the scrap-heap will shortly claim them—with, of course, many subsidiary factors—are responsible for this. We may lament or condemn the lack of solidarity, but failure to recognise it will not help the situation. Men and ideas change, however, and the heaven is working here as elsewhere. Solidarity and the feeling that revolutionary action is necessary are growing to a degree quite undreamed of a few years ago. The highest and finest expressions of solidarity have been shown by the less skilled trades, such as the mill workers of Lawrence and Paterson, and the miners of McKees Rocks, West Virginia, and Colorado. It would be unfair, however, to assume that the spirit is entirely lacking in the ranks of the skilled workers. Conditions are different with them, and the necessity for a wider solidarity was not required. They are better organised, and are usually better able to fight their own battles.

Violence in the Labour struggle is more prevalent among the workers engaged in hazardous occupations, as the bridge and structural iron workers, moulders, miners, timber workers, etc., while the sedentary trades or callings, as printers, cigarmakers, etc., are usually quite peaceful. The railway workers are so strongly organised that violence is unnecessary to the accomplishment of reforms: the mere threat of a strike is sufficient to bring the railroads to terms. Holding the key to modern commerce, they are in a position to dictate terms to an extent hardly any other trade possesses. The skilled trades of the West are more revolutionary than those of the East, and, paradoxical as it sounds, while less clear on revolutionary economics, they are far more practical in their application to real life of those they do hold. Co-operation and common action against the enemy exist to a far higher degree in the West than in the East.

Organisation exists everywhere and is growing rapidly in all ranks of Labour. It exists primarily and almost exclusively for the bringing about of immediate reforms as applied to particular trades or occupations; but it widens the horizon of organised Labour, and has a good effect. The force that propels the general Labour movement along more revolutionary lines and gives it impetus comes from outside its ranks. Property rights have never really been questioned by the American Federation of Labour, and the most they have ever claimed has been "a larger share of our product," side-stepping any claim to the full product.

The Industrial Workers of the World is a great factor in revolutionising the Labour movement of the country. A fact of the greatest importance to be noted here, and one that should be carefully considered, is the difference between the acts of the organisation and the

power of the idea behind it. It is not claimed by leaders of the organisation that there are more than twenty thousand actual members, which, if compared with the two million members of the Federation of Labour, would, on the face of things, make it insignificant. But it would be a mistake to so regard it, and we are not sure that the claim of half a million sympathisers is overdrawn. Certain it is that the name or expression, "I.W.W.," has become a symbol for revolutionary action and a fighting proletariat, and it has wielded great influence in many parts of the country, although quite often they have received credit for movements of protest and of sympathy where little or no credit was due. This happened in New York last winter, where the organisation was credited with the unemployed and free speech fights, when in reality it had little or nothing to do with them. It is unimportant who gets the credit for such things, and it is mentioned merely to clarify the issue for those unfamiliar with the facts. If such a small organisation can symbolise the hopes of such a large number of people, it deserves to grow—as it surely will.

The actual number of Anarchist propagandists is small, but there is a spirit of fraternisation growing between them and members of the I.W.W. This is due, we think, to the fact that the theories and tactics of the latter are really based upon the principles of Anarchism as advocated here and elsewhere for many years. The organisation is not Anarchist, but Anarchistic; and it is from our armoury that it has gathered weapons to do battle with the enemy. The I.W.W. is unique as a Labour organisation here, and it is like and unlike both Trade Union and Socialist Party. Unlike the former in that it stands for the abolition of Capitalism, and unlike the latter in that none but wage-earners can become members. It differs from both because it stands for direct action, the general strike, and sabotage. Anarchistic principles have exerted a big influence over the I.W.W., and it, in turn, has influenced both the Trade Unions and the Socialist Party.

It is too much to expect cohesive action in a short time among such a large number of people as live on the North American continent, but libertarians are attacking the present system from all sides, and it is but a question of time when it will succumb. It is no longer possible for the capitalist to do what he did twenty-five years ago. We do not know when the workers will fully come into their own, but the first grey streaks of dawn are discernible, and that means progress. It also means the day of emancipation is not far off.

HARRY KELLY.

MILITARY SERVITUDE.

Barracks are a horrible invention of modern times. They originate in the seventeenth century. Formerly there was nothing but the guard-house, where veterans played cards and told fairy stories. Louis XIV. is the precursor of the Convention and of Bonaparte. But the evil has come to a head in the monstrous institution of universal military service. To have forced men to kill each other is the disgrace of emperors and republics, the crime of crimes. In the so-called barbarous ages, cities and princes entrusted their defence to mercenaries, who made war deliberately and prudently; in some great battles there were only five or six slain. And when the knights engaged in war they were not forced to it; they were killed of their own free will. It is true they were good for nothing else. In the days of Saint Louis no one would have dreamt of sending a man of learning and intelligence into battle. Neither was the labourer dragged from his plough and forced to join the army. Now it is considered the duty of a poor peasant to serve as a soldier. Now he is driven from his home with its chimneys smoking in the golden evening light, from the fat meadows where his oxen are grazing, from his corn-fields and ancestral woods. In the courtyard of some miserable barracks he is taught how to kill men methodically; he is threatened, insulted, imprisoned; he is told that it is an honour, and if he desire no such honour, he is shot. He obeys, because, like all the gentlest, gayest, and most docile domestic animals, he is afraid. We in France are soldiers and we are citizens. Our citizenship is another occasion for pride! For the poor it consists in supporting and maintaining the rich in their power and their idleness. At this task they must labour in the face of the majestic equality of the laws, which forbid rich and poor alike to sleep under the bridges, to beg in the streets, and to steal their bread. This equality is one of the benefits of the Revolution. Why, that revolution was effected by madmen and idiots for the benefit of those who had acquired the wealth of the crown. It resulted in the enrichment of cunning peasants and money-lending bourgeois. In the name of equality it founded the empire of wealth. It delivered France to those moneyed classes who have been devouring her for a century. Now they are our lords and masters. The so-called government, composed of poor creatures, pitiable, miserable, impoverished, and complaining, is in the pay of financiers. Throughout the last hundred years any one caring for the poor is this plague-stricken country has been held a traitor to society. And you are considered dangerous if you assert that there are those who suffer poverty. There are even laws against indignation and pity. But what I am saying now cannot be printed.—*Anatole France.*

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"WHO FREW DAT BRICK?"

All the world is busy with the old query of Uncle Rastus as to who threw the war-brick. It is waste of time. The hard fact is that the diplomatists, with their endless lies and bad faith, always saying one thing and meaning another, manœuvring for place, keeping their wretched botches secret till too late, being highly paid to keep the peace, have landed the world in a bloody mess. All the world's priests and politicians are calling on their dirty little gods to help in their dirty little jobs. Whether they look their private gods in the face, or hire medicine men to stand between, they see only the reflection of their puny souls.

The grinning ogre of commercialism has cast off every mask. Its hired cutthroats are doing by order their murders in the dark, while old Smellprofits is laying his mines for realisation at the proper moment. To-day Government messengers in uniform bring his straight tips from the front. Never were the Governmental gamblers so discredited. In every country they had just been exposed as cheating at cards even in their own game of blood. All the patriotic bagmen of the world are doing a roaring trade. Wherever they are, these proverbial scoundrels-on-the-make are urging someone else to run amok with murder. All the old national and political ragtimes are being vamped up as if internationalism and the brotherhood of man had never been born. Not a lisp is uttered that the whole slaughter is nothing but the last stand in the last trench of usury, profit, and rent. Big talk is in the air of how the other fellow is going to pay for it all, as if the productive workers are not only too well aware of the fluidity of finance to-day, and how the whole bill will be spread evenly over all of them. Of course, the classes which benefit by economic theft are contributing their quota for the defence of their social loot, of course, taking all the best positions; but the overwhelming bulk of the victims, direct and indirect, are the sweated serfs of commercialism. Their serfdom is flaunted in their faces. They are massacred like flies, and even their names concealed, while, if captured, they are put into serfdom direct, without even the juggling pretence of a wage. Perhaps it is as well, as they are dying in the most inglorious struggle the world has ever known, and every detail of which it will try to forget as a horrible nightmare.

Before the Social Revolution was born there was some little excuse for the rotten and ragged old national shibboleths of hate, but in our day every productive worker has none of the old excuses. Commercialism is fighting in its favourite fashion. Founded on falsehood, with "let the buyer beware" as its motto, it is fighting its battle with lies like locusts in an Egyptian plague. All the cats of Cheshire never had such a grin before as at the sight of old Smellprofits in holy horror at desecration of shrines, he who would not only change money in the temple, but turn the temple into a muckheap if the price of muck is rising. He talks as big as Billy-be-damned about a "fight to a finish." We wish we could take him at his word, but the beastly braggart will be skinning out long before the only finish, which is his finish. He is, however, in sore straits just now.

The trouble is that we little mites are clinging to a ball in space, not wandering loosely over a boundless plane. The pirate empires of earth (including republics), which are all strictly private business ventures, in their marauding expeditions of exploitation have come full circle, and are now condemned to swallow each other. The air is full just now of the howling of Irish wolves. Let us hope that Kilkenny, and not Tipperary, will be the watchword. Let us pray that the age of commercialism, with its hellish trinity of usury, profit, and rent, will indeed "fight to a finish," and that the finish will be that of Kilkenny's famous cats.

Internationals need have no fear of renegades who slink back to the national and political vomit, joining in the yell to do or die, or rather to die and do the other fellow. The logic of the universe is for us. Nationalism, founded on hate and death, will go down before Internationalism built on love and life. Commercialism's fraudulent fallacy is cutting its own throat in this War of General Blue Funk, where each land is repelling the invader—coming presumably and appropriately from Mars. All are patting their own backs, telling themselves what fine fellows they are, but knowing all the while "what fools these mortals be."

LOTHROP WITHINGTON.

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A MEETING-PLACE FOR LONDON COMRADES.

(To the Editor of FREEDOM.)

DEAR COMRADE,—One of the greatest drawbacks to the Anarchist movement in London is not an insufficiency of adherents, or a lack of enthusiasm, but the absence of any form of co-ordinated effort or regular meeting of comrades. It has been suggested that this deficiency might be met by the establishing of a regular meeting-place where all could come together and discuss those things of interest to us all, spend occasional social evenings, or hold debates, etc. It is not my intention to suggest that a closely knit organisation need be built up, but rather that with just a meeting-place where books, papers, etc., could be kept for reference, the Anarchists of London would be enabled, by getting into touch one with the other, to take a keener interest in the work of propaganda, and thus prevent that decay and somnolent spirit which is so fatal to any movement, particularly at a time such as now, when a decided slump has settled on the forward movement generally.

Many of the groups in London have their own meeting-places, but there are many comrades living in districts where no group exists, or for various reasons cannot join with local groups, to whom such a place would be of immense value. The advantage of such a meeting-room is apparent in such places where they do exist, both in the propaganda and the mutual benefit derived by the users.

There are many places in central London which could be obtained cheaply, easily converted into a meeting-place, and many of us have books, etc., which we no longer need, and would gladly give to form the nucleus of a library for the use of all. Details, of course, are impossible within the limits of a letter, but the chief thing before us is to ascertain how far support will be forthcoming for the project, and whether, having started, we can rely upon the support to maintain it.

This, then, briefly, is my suggestion: that a place be taken which will be convenient for our purpose, and easily accessible from all parts; that the expenses, which should not be great, be borne by voluntary subscriptions. A meeting might be called, when other points or suggestions can be thrashed out, and this winter should see the formation of a club or meeting-place which will be at once a place of recreation and study for the interest and benefit of all, and, I feel certain, of immense advantage to the movement generally. I would be glad to hear from all interested, and to make necessary arrangements for a meeting of those willing to support the idea.

Yours fraternally,

FRED W. DUNN.

P.S.—Letters should be sent to FREEDOM Office.

ONCE MORE—

Comrades, here's to the Modern School!

It is impossible to put in mere words what this means to the movement: what a paradise it has been to the little ones—aye and to the big ones also; what unending effort and unselfish devotion on the part of the teachers, what patience, co-operation and interest on the part of the scholars have been offered up at this small shrine of our comrade Francesco Ferrer.

It is too precious a gift to lose: it could do with vast improvements, but such as it is, so we hope to keep it, until little by little we can build it up, a parent tree at present solitary and alone where by and by a vast forest may arise.

Comrades, the scholars and the teachers have asked your help before, and your generosity has never failed. They would not ask you again now, were not the need so vital, the call so insistent. The old place of meeting (146 Stepney Green, E.) has been given up, and cash should be sent to Jimmy Dick at 5 Heathcote Street, London, W.C.

Once more unto the breach....

L. A. M.

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A Letter on the Present War.

[Our comrade P. KROPOTKIN, having been asked by the Swedish Professor G. Steffen* to give his opinion upon the present war, gave it in a letter which we reproduce, with the additions he made to it in the three last paragraphs.]

DEAR STEFFEN,—You ask my opinion about the war. I have expressed it on several occasions in France, and the present events, unfortunately, only reinforce it.

I consider that the duty of every one who cherishes the ideals of human progress altogether, and especially those that were inscribed by the European proletarians on the banner of the International Working Men's Association, is to do everything in one's power, according to one's capacities, to crush down the invasion of the Germans into Western Europe.

The cause of this war was *not* Russia's attitude towards the Austrian ultimatum, as the German Government, true to Bismarck's traditions, has tried to represent it. Already on July 19 it was known among the West-European Continental statesmen that the German Government had definitely made up their mind to declare war. The Austrian ultimatum was the *consequence*, not the cause, of that decision. We thus had a repetition of Bismarck's well-known trick of 1870.†

The cause of the present war lies in the *consequences* of the war of 1870-71. These consequences were foreseen already in 1871 by Liebknecht and Bebel, when they protested against the annexation of Alsace and parts of Lorraine to the German Empire, for which protest they went to prison for two years. They foresaw that this annexation would be the cause of new wars, the growth of Prussian militarism, the militarisation of all Europe, and the arrest of all social progress. The same was foreseen by Bakunin,‡ by Garibaldi, who came with his volunteers to fight for France as soon as the Republic was proclaimed, and, in fact, by all the representatives of advanced thought in Europe.

We, who have worked in the different fractions, Social Democratic and Anarchist, of the great Socialist movement in Europe, know perfectly well how the menace of a German invasion paralysed all advanced movements in Belgium, France, and Switzerland, as the workers knew that the moment an internal struggle should begin in these countries, German invasion would immediately follow. *Belgium had been warned of that.* France knew it perfectly well without warning.

The French knew that Metz, of which the Germans had made, *not* a fortress for the defence of the territory they had appropriated, but a *fortified camp for aggressive purposes*, was within less than ten days' march from Paris, and that on the day of a declaration of war (or even before that day) an army of 250,000 men could march out of Metz against Paris, with all its artillery and train.

Under such conditions a country cannot be free, and France was not free in her development, just as Warsaw is not free under the guns of the Russian citadel and the surrounding

fortresses, and Belgrade was not free under the Austrian guns of Zemlin.

Since 1871 Germany had become a standing menace to European progress. All countries were compelled to introduce obligatory military service on the lines it had been introduced in Germany, and to keep immense standing armies. All were living under the menace of a sudden invasion.

More than that, for Eastern Europe, and especially for Russia, Germany was the chief support and protection of reaction. Prussian militarism, the mock institution of popular representation offered by the German Reichstag and the feudal Landtags of the separate portions of the German Empire, and the ill-treatment of the subdued nationalities in Alsace, and especially in Prussian Poland, where the Poles were treated lately as badly as in Russia—without protest from the advanced political parties—these fruits of German Imperialism were the lessons that modern Germany, the Germany of Bismarck, taught her neighbours and, above all, Russian absolutism. Would absolutism have maintained itself so long in Russia, and would that absolutism ever have dared to ill-treat Poland and Finland as it has ill-treated them, if it could not produce the example of "cultured Germany," and if it were not sure of Germany's protection?

Let us not be so forgetful of history as to forget the intimacy that existed between Alexander II. and Wilhelm I., the common hatred they displayed for France, on account of her efforts to free Italy, and their opposition to the Italians themselves when in 1860 they sent away the Austrian rulers of Florence, Parma, and Modena, and Florence became the capital of Italy. Let us not forget the reactionary advices which Wilhelm I. gave to Alexander III. in 1881, and the support his son gave to Nicholas II. in 1905. Let us not forget either that if France granted to the Russian autocracy the loan of 1906, it was because she saw that unless Russia succeeded in reforming her armies after the Manchurian defeat, she would be doomed to be torn to pieces by Germany, Italy, and Austria leagued against her. The events of the last few weeks have proved already how well-founded were these apprehensions.

The last forty-three years were a confirmation of what Bakunin wrote in 1871, namely, that if French influence disappeared from Europe, Europe would be thrown back in her development for half a century. And now it is self-evident that if the present invasion of Belgium and France is not beaten back by the common effort of all nations of Europe, we shall have another half-century or more of general reaction.

During the last forty years, a Franco-German war was all the time hanging over Europe. Bismarck was not satisfied with the crushing defeat inflicted upon France. He found that she was recovering too rapidly from her wounds. He regretted not having annexed the province of Champagne, and not having taken an indemnity of fifteen thousand million francs instead of five thousand million. On three different occasions Alexander II. and Alexander III. had to interfere in order to prevent the German Imperialists from assailing France once more. And the moment they began to feel themselves strong as a sea-power, the Germans took it into their heads to destroy the maritime power of Britain, to take a strong footing on the Southern shores of the Channel, and to menace England with an invasion. The German "reptile Press" is saying now that by sending their wild hordes to sack and burn the cities of Belgium and France they are fighting Russia; but I hope there is nobody stupid enough to believe this absurdity. They conquer Belgium and France, and they fight England.

Their purpose is, to force Holland to become part of the German Empire, so that the passages leading from the Indian Ocean into the Pacific, which are now held by the Dutch, should pass into German hands; to take possession of Antwerp and Calais; to annex the Eastern portion of Belgium, as well as the French province of Champagne, so as to be within a couple of days only from the capital of France. This has been the dream of the German "Kaiserists" since the times of Bismarck, long before there was a *rapprochement* between France and Russia, and this remains their dream.

It was not to fight Russia that Germany in 1866 laid her hands upon Denmark and annexed the province of Schleswig-Holstein. It was not against Russia, but against France and England, that Germany has built her enormous navy, that she dug and fortified the Kiel Canal, and established the military seaport of Wilhelmshafen, where an invasion of England or a raid upon Brest and Cherbourg can be prepared in full security and secrecy. The tale of fighting Russia on the plains of France and Belgium, which is now repeated by the German Press, has been concocted for export to Sweden and the United

* Gustaf Steffen contributed to FREEDOM in 1891, when he gave us a very good analysis of Value in Use and Value in Exchange, in the May to August numbers.

† I mean the falsified "Ems telegram" which he published to make people believe it was the French who were the cause of the war. Later on, he himself boasted of that trick.

‡ In his "Lettres à un Français" and "L'Empire Knouto-Germanique et la Révolution Sociale," published now in Vol. II. of his "Œuvres" Paris: (P.-V. Stock).

States; but there is not a single intelligent man in Germany itself who does not know that the foes who were aimed at lately were Britain and France. The Germans themselves made no secrecy of it in their conversations and their works on the coming war.

The decision of declaring the present war was taken in Germany as soon as the works on the enlargement and the fortification of the Kiel Canal had been terminated in a great hurry this summer, on June 20. But the war nearly broke out in June, 1911—we knew it well here. It would have broken out last summer, if Germany had been ready. Last February, the coming of the present war was so evident that, being at Bordighera, I told my French friends that it was foolish of them to oppose the three years' military law, while Germany was busily preparing for war; and I advised my Russian friends not to remain too late in the German watering-places, because war would begin as soon as the crops would be ready in France and in Russia. In fact, only those who buried their heads in the sand, like ostriches, could go on without seeing it themselves.

Now we have learned what Germany wants, how extensive are her pretensions, how immense and detailed were her preparations for this war, and what sort of "evolution" we have to expect from the Germans if they are victorious. What their dreams of conquest are, we have been told by the German Emperor himself, his son, and his Chancellor. And now we have heard, not only what a drunken German lieutenant or general can say to justify the atrocities committed in Belgium by the German hordes, but what a leader of the German Social Democratic Party, Dr. Sudekum, *delegated by his own party* to the workers of Sweden and Italy, had the impudence to say to excuse the barbarities committed by the German Huns in the Belgian villages and cities. They committed these atrocities because civilian inhabitants had fired upon the invaders in defence of their territory!! For a German Social Democrat this is quite enough! When Napoleon III. gave the same excuse to account for the shooting of the Parisians on the day of his *coup d'état*, all Europe named him a scoundrel. Now the same excuse is produced to account for infinitely more abominable atrocities, by a German pupil of Marx!

This gives us the measure of the degradation of the nation during the last forty years.

And now let every one imagine for himself what would be the consequences if Germany came victorious out of this war.

Holland—compelled to join the German Empire, because she holds the passages from the Indian Ocean to the Pacific, and "the Germans need them."

Most of Belgium annexed to Germany—it is already annexed. An immense, ruinous contribution levied, in addition to the already accomplished pillage.

Antwerp and Calais becoming military ports of Germany, in addition to Wilhelmshafen. Denmark—at the mercy of Germany, to be annexed the moment she would dare not to serve the aggressive plans of the Germans, which plans are bound to extend, as they have extended since the successes of 1871.

Eastern France—annexed to Germany, whose new fortresses will then be within two or three days' march from Paris. France will be thus at the mercy of Germany for the next fifty years. All French colonies—Morocco, Algiers, Tonkin—taken by Germany: "We have no colonies worth twopence: we must have them," said the elder son of Wilhelm the other day. It is so simple—and so candid!

Having opposite her shores a string of German military ports along the south coast of the Channel and the North Sea, what can be the life of the United Kingdom but a life entirely ruled by the idea of a new war to be fought, in order to get rid of the standing menace of an invasion—an invasion being no longer impossible now, as the aggressor would have at his service big liners, submarine boats, and the aircraft.

Finland—becoming a German province. *Germany has been working at that since 1883*, and her first steps in the present campaign show where she is aiming at. Poland—compelled definitively to abandon all dreams of national independence. Are not the rulers of Germany now treating the Poles of Pozen as badly as, if not worse than, the Russian autocrat? And are not the German Social Democrats already considering the Polish dreams of national revival as stupid bosh! *Deutschland über Alles! Germany above all!*

But enough! Every one who has any knowledge of European affairs and the turn they have taken during the last twenty years will himself complete the picture.

"But what about the danger of Russia?" my readers will probably ask.

To this question, every serious person will probably answer, that when you are menaced by a great, very great danger, the first thing to do is to combat this danger, and then see to the next. Belgium and a good deal of France are conquered by Germany, and the whole civilisation of Europe is menaced by its iron fist. Let us cope first with this danger.

As to the next, Is there anybody who has not thought himself that the present war, in which all parties in Russia have risen unanimously against the common enemy, will render a return to the autocracy of old materially impossible? And then, those who have seriously followed the revolutionary movement of Russia in 1905 surely know what were the ideas which dominated in the First and Second, approximately freely elected Dumas. They surely know that complete home-rule for all the component parts of the Empire was a fundamental point of all the Liberal and Radical parties. More than that: Finland then actually *accomplished* her revolution in the form of a democratic autonomy, and the Duma approved it.

And finally, those who know Russia and her last movement certainly feel that *autocracy will never more be re-established in the forms it had before 1905, and that a Russian Constitution could never take the Imperialist forms and spirit which Parliamentary rule has taken in Germany*. As to us, who know Russia, from the inside, we are sure that the Russians never will be capable of becoming the aggressive, warlike nation Germany is. Not only the whole history of the Russians shows it, but with the Federation Russia is *bound* to become in the very near future, such a warlike spirit would be absolutely incompatible.

But even if I were wrong in all these previsions, although every intelligent Russian would confirm them,—well, then there would be time to fight Russian Imperialism in the same way as all freedom-loving Europe is ready at this moment to combat that vile warlike spirit which has taken possession of Germany since it abandoned the traditions of its former civilisation and adopted the tenets of the Bismarckian Imperialism.

It is certain that the present war will be a great lesson to all nations. It will have taught them that war cannot be combatted by pacifist dreams and all sorts of nonsense about war being so murderous now that it will be impossible in the future. Nor can it be combatted by that sort of antimilitarist propaganda which has been carried on till now. Something much deeper than that is required.

The causes of war must be attacked at the root. And we have a great hope that the present war will open the eyes of the masses of workers and of a number of men amidst the educated middle classes. They will see the part that Capital and State have played in bringing about the armed conflicts between nations.

But for the moment we must not lose sight of the main work of the day. *The territories of both France and Belgium must be freed of the invaders*. The German invasion must be repulsed—no matter how difficult this may be. All efforts must be directed that way.

The Class War in Texas.

Eight of the fourteen men under trial in Texas for the death of Ortis, a deputy sheriff killed in the struggle that followed an attempt by members of the Mexican Liberal Party to cross the border last September, have now received long sentences, the last inflicted being one of twenty-five years on P. Perales. León Vasquez has been given fifteen years. The Court of Appeal ordered a new trial, and this was held before the judge who previously tried the case. It is, therefore, not astonishing to hear that ten years were added to the original sentence!

It is without a doubt that the defendants are all morally innocent, their one offence being the attempt to return to Mexico and take part in the struggle for land and liberty, the killing of Ortis by a Mexican, who himself was killed, having been an accidental incident. But the prisoners are held technically guilty of murder, because while they were in the commission of an unlawful act—crossing the border armed—a man was killed.

The case, put in such a way, strikes a common-sense observer as an artificial legal fiction, and the terrible punishments inflicted are clearly indicative of the class hatred which the possessing classes have for Rangel, Cline, and their comrades, who have all been active in the Labour movement, and now by chance have fallen into the hands of their social enemies.

Rangel and Cline, who are the special targets of the prosecution, will be tried in September, and may be sentenced to the gallows.

Our American comrades are collecting funds to procure legal help for the prisoners. Money is urgently needed by the Rangel-Cline Defence Committee, Room 108, Labor Temple, Los Angeles, Cal.

Have the Leopards Changed their Spots?

Although statesmen, pressmen, and parsons are unanimous in telling us that this is a war for Britain's honour and the independence of little nations, a very slight knowledge of the methods of the ruling classes of all nations should be sufficient to cause us to doubt the sincerity of this statement. Whilst such emphasis is laid on the question of the independence of Belgium and the awful tragedies enacted on her soil, we are in danger of losing sight of the fact that that was not the primary and immediate cause of the war. As is known, the pretext was Austria's insistence on the humiliation of the Servian Government. Russia, the self-constituted "protector" of the Slavs, came to the assistance of Serbia, as she had promised, her military prestige being at stake; and when Germany went to Austria's assistance, both France and Britain were automatically drawn in, the French Government being pledged to support Russia, and the British Government being pledged to support France. None of the peoples was consulted in this matter of life and death—they never are—therefore, when I speak of "France," "Russia," etc., the ruling clique in each country is meant.

But this war was "inevitable," if ever one was. Powerful financial forces had ranged themselves under the flags of the various countries, and were using the Governments to support their interests. To safeguard their power to exploit the peoples—black, white, or yellow—they were quite prepared to make a slaughter-house of Europe. Add to this the intrigues of the ambitious military caste, and the enormous growth of armies and armaments, and the necessary ingredients for an explosion were at hand.

Russia, with the financial aid of England and France, had reorganised her army since the war with Japan, and was only too glad to get an opportunity to show off her military strength to the kingly of the Near East. France, knowing she was sure of the support of Russia and Britain, was also ready to show she was not a negligible quantity, the reactionaries, led by Millerand, having stirred up the martial spirit during the last few years. Germany, the land of militarism *par excellence*, knew that as soon as her enemies were ready they would tear away from her the provinces she had stolen from France in 1871. And Britain, who holds one-fifth of the world's surface, finding her commercial and maritime supremacy challenged by Germany, was ready to take advantage of the first opportunity to deliver a smashing blow at her rival. For this purpose, she had allied herself with the most reactionary Government in the world.

But surely the Allies are not so brutal as the Germans? some one will say. Let us see. How has the British Empire been built up? By the same methods as all empires were built up—by brute force. Take India and Africa, for example, and you will find that the bullet and the bayonet, combined with cunning, were the principal factors in "persuading" those countries to come into the Empire. The politicians have not always been so jealous of our "national honour" as they seem to be just now. They promised to lead the Indian people to a system of self-government, but those three hundred millions have no share whatever in the governing of their country. The politicians pledged our national honour to retire from Egypt, but have not done so; and as recently as 1907, with Russia, we guaranteed the independence and integrity of Persia; but when Russia hanged many of the leading Persians, and made Northern Persia practically a Russian province, the British Government never lifted a finger.

Then look at the "Colossus of the North." Speaking seriously, can any one imagine the Tsar and his advisers going to war in the name of Liberty? Remember Finland, Persia, and Manchuria; and remember the 150,000 political prisoners at present in Russian gaols, besides the thousands flogged and tortured to death. Remember the "Black Hundreds" and their pogroms, for which their leaders were personally decorated by the Tsar. We have heard a lot about the regeneration of Russia after the war, but the arrest of the too-confiding Bourtzeff shows that the leopard has not changed its spots at present. The promise of a united and independent Poland, *under the Tsar*, was really a notification to their Allies that they had earmarked that country as their share of the spoil.

Since France was defeated in 1870-71 she has annexed 1,678,000 square miles of territory in Asia and Africa, with a population of 30,000,000. So in spite of her fear of Germany, her army managed to do something besides protecting her frontiers.

Now, with records like this, can any one believe that the Governments of the Allies went into this war to liberate Europe from tyranny?

The more I study the evidence, the more certain I am that the growing commercial as well as military power of Germany was a challenge to Britain and the Allied Powers, and the supremacy of one or the other is the sole point at issue. And the workers are slaughtering each other to decide it. They will gain nothing by this war; whatever the result may be, they must lose.

T. H. KEELL.

ANARCHISM IN CHINA.

Anarchism in China is in its infancy, but, in comparison with the last two years, it seems to make marked progress at present. State-Socialists, whose number is estimated at 400,000 (!), begin to throw off their false ideas and join us, and most of the students who know something about the idea of evolution become gradually interested with the Anarchist movement.

We would have made more progress if we were not hindered by the second revolution—partly Yuan-Shi-Kai, and partly the so-called political revolutionists. Yuan-Shi-Kai is, of course, a great monster; but the idea of the political revolutionists is also ridiculous. Among them there may be some men who are extremely fervid, but, as far as I can see, what their leaders do is nothing more than farcical. If Yuan-Shi-Kai is knocked down, his position, I can give assurance, will be taken by a second Yuan-Shi-Kai. They will then seize the high offices of State, pocketing what they can lay their hands on, and we people will suffer miserably and be exploited as before.

All around us are opponents and obstacles, but, as was said in FREEDOM, we do not know failure or defeat, but go on our way until our ideal is realised.

In China true Anarchists are scarce; but there is one whom I regard as an excellent comrade. It is Mr. Sifo. He is a man of twenty-eight, having one of his hands lost, caused by the explosion of bombs which he intended to throw on the Manchu admiral in the previous revolution about the year 1906.

I am only in my nineteenth year; I know I am too young, so I desire to acquire more scientific knowledge. My ardent desire is to come to England or France and study, but am hindered by a single reason—financial difficulty. Isn't it the most unequal and unhappy thing that one can't have the right to be educated only because he is poor? And is it possible to delay the social and economical revolution when those exploiters are continuing with all their might to destroy us?

The day of the Anarchist Congress is approaching. I am very sorry that I have nothing to report, yet, I cannot refrain from asking you to convey my idea to the Congress. The existence of so many languages at present is a great hindrance to the progress of the world, and to the Anarchists it is the worst, so I advise all Anarchists to take up the course of Esperanto and study. The reason why there are so few Chinese or Japanese who know "What is Anarchism?" is because there are not many pamphlets about Anarchism printed in Chinese or Japanese, so if a Chinese or Japanese wants to have some knowledge about Anarchism he must know foreign languages, read foreign pamphlets, and communicate with foreigners. The study of foreign languages is not an easy task. In studying English, it requires five or six years before a Chinese or Japanese can read an English newspaper; and if he wants to have a common knowledge of the French language, he has to spend seven years. Besides, there are still German, Italian, Spanish, etc. Is it possible to learn so many languages? I am sure no one will say "possible." So, Esperanto is the most convenient thing for the Orientals and for Anarchists also.

I beg also to define briefly the history of Anarchism in China.

About the year 1907, Chinese students in Paris published a weekly gazette named *La Nova Tempo*. It was an organ of Chinese revolutionists against the Manchu Government, and its opinion was wholly on Anarchism, the editors being Mr. Li-Yu-Ying, the founder of the world-famed "Beaucord Company" in Paris, and Wu-Che-Vai. Mr. Li translated many books on Anarchism, such as "Mutual Aid," "The State," etc. "Law and Authority," "A Talk about Anarchist Communism between Two Workers," "An Appeal to the Young," etc., have also been translated. This gazette lasted for three years, and in 1910 it disappeared. Mr. Li spent several hundred thousand dollars in these affairs entirely on his own cost, for his grandfather had been the Prime Minister of the Manchu dynasty. Although Mr. Li and his comrades did their best to propagate the Anarchist ideal, yet there was very little effect, the chief reason being that their paper was published far away from China—in Paris.

Since the disappearance of *La Nova Tempo* there existed not a breath of the Anarchist ideal, until in 1911 the revolution broke out, when Kiang-Kou-Fu founded the Socialist Party in Shanghai. At the same time, in Canton, Mr. Sifo started the "Fujin Lernejo" and the "Conscience Group," a free federation wholly on individual morality. Its prospectus is thus:—(1) Not to take meat, (2) not to smoke, (3) not to drink wine or spirits, (4) not to use servants, (5) not to use rickshaws (vehicles for passengers drawn by human hands), (6) not to marry—free love, (7) not to use surname (in China, surname is a great necessity in family), (8) not to occupy himself as an official, (9) not to occupy himself in Parliament, (10) not to join a political party, (11) not to enter military circle, (12) not to enter religious circle. Sifo also published many books and pamphlets for propagation, and some thirty thousand copies have been distributed free.

At that time Kiang-Kou-Fu had a wonderful career. According to his report, there were over forty branches of the Chinese Socialist Party, and the number of its members was some four hundred thousand! But, strange to say, less than one in a thousand of that number know what Socialism is. It is no wonder, for their leader, Kiang-Kou-Fu himself, is always confused with Socialism. Seeing this, a minority of the said Chinese Socialist Party became aroused, and so started another new Socialist Party in opposition to the old one, which was then very near to political party in character. Shortly after its birth, the new

Socialist Party was suppressed, and the following year the old one shared the same fate, in the time of the second revolution.

By this time, China was in a very confused and shocking state. The revolutionists were defeated, everywhere the people were threatened with arrests and shots, and in Canton arrests were made several times a day. All around the city were brutal spies, and one who had a breath of complaint would soon find himself in conflict. Those arrested were shot. But at this time we went on with our work. We had a printing machine, so we composed and printed for ourselves. The first and second copy of *La Voco de la Popolo* had been published, when early one morning news reached us that we were to be arrested and that our last moment was approaching! We then took counsel, and after everything was in good order we sailed for Macau, with a hope that we could continue the propagation of the Anarchist ideal. But, unfortunately, we suffered a second suppression, this time by the Portuguese Government. Being quite disappointed, I sailed to the Malaya; and after a month, Sifo removed to Shanghai. *La Voco de la Popolo* is reappearing, but published secretly.

The Chinese Socialist Party has scattered and dispersed. Of the four hundred thousand members there remain only twenty or thirty persons who dare to talk about Socialism, and some of them are beginning to combine with us. The leader has fled to America. As to the new Socialist Party, the leader has been shot, and the members begin to throw off their false ideas and join us.

Singapore.

P. G.

INTERNATIONAL NOTES.

FRANCE.

The Conservative paper, *Journal de Genève*, speaking of the condition of the population in the French provinces bordering on Switzerland, quotes the words of one of its readers, who had travelled in those provinces after the outbreak of the war:—

"The organisation of life in the country is remarkable for its solidarity and altruism. Everywhere in the districts of Ain, Isère, Drome, and Ardèche it is the same. The harvests are generally very good, only there seems a lack of hands. But the mayors call every morning to the village green all the men, those who are too old for military service, but still have a good pair of arms, and the young ones who have not yet reached the age of service; together they discuss what must be done first of all. The work is divided: some cut the corn, others make sheaves, whilst some drive the carts. The work is started. Everybody gets his equitable share, as the first aim must be to assure the existence of every inhabitant.

"In nearly all places they act in this way. This communalist spirit is due in great part to the development during recent years of co-operative enterprises and societies.

"In one village, the Socialist mayor took up his abode in the Town Hall, and made his daughter his secretary, and soon communal soup kitchens, children's nurseries, and a civil guard were organised.

"In industrial districts every effort is made to keep the workers employed, and to reorganise the working of the factories on a new basis. The Bank of France is assisting by accepting the cheques of the factory owners for the payment of wages.

"In a word, the most striking feature of the moment in the country districts of France is that all forces, all efforts are joined together—an economic fact of great importance."

It is certainly a remarkable fact that the moment the Governments are entirely absorbed by other "duties" and unable to keep down popular initiative, the common-sense of the people tells them that starvation can be staved off, and even a comparative comfort ensured, by a Communist effort only. It is sad that a disaster like a war is needed to furnish an opportunity for the population to show its creative capacity and organising ability. If the communes are able to keep their members alive by communal efforts at a time of national depression, what a glorious plenty and happiness might not be created when the whole male population, and not merely the very old and young, instead of being engaged in the work of destruction, is whole-heartedly giving its strength to the problem of production and distribution on a Communist basis!

UNITED STATES.

First Political Hunger-Striker in America.

The indomitable courage of the English Suffragettes who went through the torture of a hunger-strike has not only aroused the admiration of their foes and friends, but their example has been followed by a woman across the Atlantic—Becky Edelson. This young comrade of New York took an active part in the unemployed movement of last winter. Though not at all fond of publicity, the need of speakers overcame her timidity, and soon she was a regular speaker on street corners and squares. Then she came in contact with the police, but was not kept under arrest. At an anti-war meeting, when the war with Mexico was declared, Becky Edelson was arrested for "disorderly conduct." She was bound over to keep the peace for three months, which she refused to do, as it meant that she must abstain from speaking against the war. She was sent to prison, and at once started a hunger-strike. As an appeal against her sentence was lodged, she was allowed out on bail; but the Appeal Court upheld her sentence, and she began

again the hunger-strike. It is such an indomitable spirit which makes a cause triumphant, or at least respected.

The Trial of Tarrytown.

The comrades who went to Tarrytown, chiefly owned by Rockefeller, to acquaint the people there with the facts of the Colorado miners' strike, and the shooting of their wives and children, for which Rockefeller, as the chief owner of the mines and the gunmen, was responsible, have found out that the sacred right of free speech cannot exist against the more sacred right of property. The Master of Tarrytown naturally did not like being bearded in his own den, and the police and judges subserviently arrested and sentenced the speakers to two months' imprisonment. It looks as if all constitutional rights must be reconquered again by the people. The less "legality" they employ in this aim, the quicker the aim will be reached, and the more the enemy will be impressed.

NEW ZEALAND.

A comrade in Wellington, N.Z., sends us the following notes on the Labour Movement:—

The old Federation of Labour exists really in name only. Its present attitude is directed towards political action and acceptance of the platform of the New South Wales Labour Party, which is really a semi-Liberal organisation. The Labour movement got a terrible set-back after the failure of the general strike of last year, although there are signs of a slight change. The political action advocated by the S.D.P. seems to have created a feeling amongst the workers in New Zealand that their only salvation lies in gaining Parliamentary supremacy. We are going to have a general election at the end of this year, and the S.D.P. are making full preparations for the contest; in fact, it is rumoured that they are going to compromise with the Liberal Party in that they would not put up a candidate where a Liberal is in the field. Their object is to put the present Conservative Administration out of power. The workers of other countries tried the same dodge, and partially succeeded. What was the result? Have they stopped strikes, have they materially benefitted the workers? Certainly not. They have only checked the fighting spirit of the masses by beautiful promises. Different tactics are necessary to liberate them from the yoke of Capitalism. Meanwhile industrial organisation propaganda is out of the question.

The war scare here has had a tremendous effect on the people. The Jingoistic spirit of the Press, and the influence it has on the people, are astounding. Should the reports be true, things will be pretty serious. We hoped that the advancement of science, literature, and in mechanical invention which has taken place in recent years would lead us nearer to our goal—universal peace and brotherhood. But suddenly a European war breaks out, and the people are just as ready to support it, even with their lives, as they were a hundred years ago. It seems that with all the advancement and progress of civilisation, we are no nearer to our goal. Let us hope that this war will bring about a better understanding among the workers of the world, and then possibly will we gain what we are striving for.

FREEDOM.

Down the long ages Freedom has called us,
Forth to the dawning, forth to the light:
Ages of darkness fettered and thrall'd us—
When shall we waken out of the night?

These are not dreamings, sweet in all seeming,
Fancies of darkness, fading with morn:
Man the world over sees the bright gleaming,
Promise of glorious ages unborn.

Why, then, this waiting? One and united,
Close up your ranks and fare to the fray!
Strong be your arms that wrongs may be righted!
Out of the darkness, forth to the Day!

L. A. MOTLER.

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DEATH OF W. J. NEEDS.

We regret to state that our comrade Walter J. Needs ("J. Walters") died from cancer on September 8, aged forty-eight. From his usually healthy and robust appearance, few would have expected such an early and sudden end. In his early days he was well-known as a speaker in the Secularist Society, of which he had been a member for twenty-five years. But he soon found that Secularism was a secondary question, and a long study of Socialist and Anarchist literature convinced him that all government was bad for the individual and for nations. He was ever ready to expound his ideas, and in his journeys to the West of England (as a commercial traveller) his services were always at the disposal of the comrades, who will miss his visits. His appearance on a platform was a guarantee of a well-reasoned lecture, which was usually prepared conscientiously. London comrades will also regret the loss of such a capable propagandist.

The funeral took place at Streatham Park Cemetery on Sept. 12. In spite of the rain, there was a good muster of comrades. The ceremony consisted of a splendid tribute to his memory from Frank Baker, and the singing of "The Red Flag." We tender our sympathy to his widow and children in their loss.

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Chopwell Workers' Freedom Group (Communist Club, Derwent Street).—Sunday, October 11, 7 p.m., Ferrer Memorial Meeting, in Club. Speakers: Will Lewcock, Ruskin College, Oxford; Adv Staamer, Chopwell; Will Lawther, Chopwell. Saturdays, 2 to 5 p.m., and Wednesdays, 6 to 7.30 p.m., French Class.

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