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# The Daily Record

and THE DRESDEN DAILY.

№ 514.

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## SOCIALISM AND COMMONSENSE.

There are signs on every hand that vigorous methods are to be adopted in dealing with the Socialist movement. The *Standard* has for the past few weeks been devoting a good deal of its space to an open discussion of the subject, in which many sensible opinions have been expressed and many specious arguments exposed. It has published reports, sufficiently disturbing, from various English centres on the spread of Socialism during recent years, and to these opinions and facts it has added its own well-balanced and trenchant criticism. Equally direct and effective has been the work of the *Times* in the same direction. Side by side with the fullest expression of the aims of Socialism by its most prominent advocates, the *Times* has in its leading articles demonstrated, generally and specifically, the inadequacy of Socialist assumptions. The campaign has now been taken up by hands which should have the power to render it effective: the National Union of Conservative and Constitutional Associations has at last realized that Socialism can no longer be regarded as a topic of political speculation for amateurs and unpractical enthusiasts: as the movement has become theoretically discredited, it has grown politically significant. It has taken hold of the imagination of working-men, and it has even contaminated the purity of their political motives. For, whatever may be urged to the contrary, the aims of Socialism are inevitably personal and therefore—by a sad deficiency of human nature—inevitably selfish; the communal ideals adumbrated in the heat of rhetoric make their actual appeal not to the communal but to the predatory instinct of a crowd. We can produce the same phenomenon with much greater justice and much less hypocrisy under a system pointedly individualistic and frankly competitive.

Every method calculated to exhibit to the fullest extent the baselessness of Socialist tenets will necessarily be adopted by the organized speakers and demonstrators whom Mr. Percival Hughes has called into action. The task is no easy one, for the abuses of capitalists are by no means slight or infrequent; and, however difficult it may be to convince a cool reasoner that in Socialism lies the only remedy for exploitation, it is there that the victim of Industrialism who recognizes symptoms without understanding causes will see the obvious solution. The unintelligent workman embraces Socialism because the intelligent workman preaches it; we should be sorry to assert that he is actuated simply by the hope of personal advantage; but where he has suffered for the short comings of society, especially in lack of opportunity of every sort, his views are tinged with feelings which must obscure the justness of his aims; and, even on the most liberal assumption, intelligence and judgement are not interchangeable attributes. There are Socialist workmen who cannot see, others who do not wish to see, others, whose sight distorts and disfigures. What is required is not to show the working-classes that they have no grievance; their grievances are real substantial: good Conservatives must prove that they recognize the defects of society and are striving to remove them; they must prove that they are working for the good of the State and of the individual, not indeed with visionary fanaticism, but with the closest reference to actual conditions; and that, by educational and material improvements, they are labouring to carry on as rapidly as is consistent with safety the progress of the nineteenth century.

Not the least ugly and insupportable manifestation of Socialism has been the anti-militarist movement set on foot in France. Apart from actual conditions its aims would be perfect; precisely because of those conditions its aims are anarchical. Actu-

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ally anti-militarism signifies civil war, and it has been propagated in a manner which soon aroused the suspicion, and has now attracted to itself the condemnation of the French people. At the Radical congress held at Nancy M. Pelletan expressed himself emphatically against the movement, and his protest was loudly echoed by the assembly. More than that, the prosecution of M. Hervé and of the editor of the notorious *La Guerre* has been instituted; we hope that due justice will be meted out to these dangerous fire-brands who would make peace a pretext for disorder. We hope, too, that Socialists will take to heart the moral of such action, and realize that they must look to enlightened government, guaranteed by constitutional liberty and political habit, for better conditions and a fuller life. Political Socialism whether it springs from ignorance, interest, or misery can never be more than an engine of destruction. Socialistic government is quite another matter, but it is at least doubtful whether the ordinary Socialist workman is prepared to make the distinction.

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## ENGLISH CONSERVATIVES AND SOCIALISM.

The National Union of Conservative and Constitutional Associations have issued the following statement of their plan of campaign:—

In connection with the scheme of reorganisation generally, the Chief Whip of the Conservative party (Sir Alexander Acland-Hood, Bart., M.P.), the chief agent (Mr. J. Percival Hughes), and the secretary of the National Union (Mr. Thomas Cox) have been in constant consultation for some time past with the committees of the National Union.

It has been decided to tour the country with lantern vans. A small army of vans will leave London early in November, each taking a different route. They will be specially built, and will each be equipped with a lantern and slides. Speakers will accompany each van. Meetings will be addressed outside factories and mill gates at midday, and at night lantern lectures will be delivered. Literature will be freely distributed en route. Gramophones—the records being short, telling speeches and political verses set to topical tunes—will accompany the vans.

The vans will be posted with cartoons and specially drawn posters.

It is intended that this tour shall continue until the end of April, 1908. The vans will also be available for summer open-air meetings.

By both these schemes many thousands of meetings of an educational character will be held, and they will directly appeal to the working man.

It is also intended to arrange a series of large meetings in convenient centres during the autumn and winter, to be addressed by prominent members of the party.

In addition to this, a scheme has been drawn up with a view to starting a permanent organisation of working men speakers in all parts of the kingdom. By this means also some thousands of outdoor meetings other than those already mentioned will be held, and will be addressed by working men speakers.

## THE IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

London, October 11.

The *Tribune* states that Parliament is to meet as early as January 28, owing to the very comprehensive programme before it.

## THE "LUSITANIA".

New York, October 11.

The Cunard liner "Lusitania" passed the Sandy Hook light-ship at 1.25 a.m. today. The duration of her voyage was therefore 4 days 20 hours.

## SIR JOHN FRENCH IN RUSSIA.

St. Petersburg, October 11.

The *Russki Invalid* states that the visit of Sir John French is of a purely private character. The General is on leave, and will travel from St. Petersburg, via Moscow and Kieff to Odessa and Constantinople.

## MR. LLOYD GEORGE AND THE RAILWAY STRIKE.

London, October 11.

The President of the Board of Trade, Mr. Lloyd George, in an interview at Cardiff, said that the Government was fully aware of the serious nature of the Railway crisis, and that he was therefore in constant communication with the Prime Minister. The Board of Trade would do all in its power to avert a strike of the railway men.

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