

# The Daily Record

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and THE DRESDEN DAILY.

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## SOCIALISM IN ENGLAND.

(FROM A LONDON CORRESPONDENT.)

The problem of the "unemployable" constitutes a rift in the Socialistic lute which is recognised by the thorough-going minds who lead the Communistic movement in Britain and on the Continent. Their remedy is compulsion—a good flogging apportioned to him who will not work. This is one New Way of Life, but it is a worse way than the system that now provides for the human parasites who live on us by suction. These latter are like Plato's disciple, who, having perceived a truth, is "preferred from harm until another period." The essence of freedom is liberty to idle as well as freedom to work; to get drunk or to abstain; to steal or to remain honest; to labour or to cadge. Nothing gets over the fact that political freedom to go one way commotes freedom to go another. When the British working-man understands that the tyranny of the Tudors compared with the tyranny of Lloyd Georgean Socialism is as water unto wine he will cease to vote for the Socialists. The one question that no Socialist can answer satisfactorily is, "What are you going to do under Socialism with the shirkers?" At present the compulsion of n.c. ssity and the hope of gain are sufficient inducements for the majority of the community to apply themselves diligently to labour under the sun. Abolish or abate the existing forms of compulsion and take security from honest gains and the substitution of boatswain bureaucrats with cat-o-nine-tails is the only alternative.

If Mr. Ure were in power in a Socialist State he might retaliate on his aggressor by requiring Mr. Balfour to repair underground sewers and by giving the right honourable gentleman one dozen "of the best" if he shirked work. Queerer things than that have happened, both after the Irish Rebellion, so lately as the end of the eighteenth century, and during the French Revolution. Bermondsey has scotched, but not killed, the policy of using the United Kingdom and its resources for the private benefit of the friends of the Socialist leaders. Unredeemed misery in our country is still the ally of our opponents. Unless we can grapple with that misery and show that our plan is no mere political dodge the Socialists will win, and will deserve to win. Between January, 1906, and September, 1909, £50,000,000 sterling has been paid to parish relief. Six hundred thousand Britons were forced to emigrate in search of work, and £468,000,000 worth of manufactured goods have entered our ports without paying a toll. Of all the piffle of palliatives proposed for the remedy of this state of things the annual vote by Parliament for £200,000 to turn a few unemployed into a few more unemployable is the most futile. The idea that taxation of the rich is not passed on to others and that it does not finally reach the labouring classes is a novel idea to the Liberal Party. Just before the last General Election the Liberal Publication Department issued a pamphlet which contains a passage of sound sense and unanswerable truth:

"Many people seem to imagine that if a tax is paid only by the rich it is the rich only who feel it. That is not so. So far as the question of employment is concerned, the effect of a tax is the same whether it was paid by rich or poor. If the rich man has to pay an extra £50 for income tax he has £50 less to spend on multifarious industries. The people he was employing are thrown out of work."

During the last four years under Free Trade bread has gone up a halfpenny a loaf, beef 3s. a cwt., pork 3s. 6d., butter 4s. 6d., and potatoes £1 0s. 6d. a ton. Unemployment is 7.8 per cent higher in England than it has been for twenty years. The country is spending £35,000,000 upon Poor Law, twice as much as any

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other country in the world. Notwithstanding Old-Age Pensions, the expenditure on pauperism has increased by £250,000 in the first half of the present year. With 60,000,000 inhabitants Germany lost £25,000,000 of trade in 1903. The United Kingdom, with an advantage of position amounting to permanent protection, lost £89,000,000 of trade. During the first six months of this year Germany recovered all her loss and gained £10,000,000 of trade. England gained nothing but lost £17,000,000 less than the previous year. Disraeli said: "Protection is not only dead but damned." The vital facts just cited show that free imports—we never had Free Trade—is damned but not dead. Fifty Britons emigrate for every three Germans, and although the Patents Act brought in by Mr. Lloyd George is a Protectionist measure, the idea of taxing foreign wheat to the extent of two shillings or one quarter of the natural increase in price since the Government manœuvred itself into office is denounced as a crime by Liberals and their Socialist masters.

Socialism is the militarisation of industry. Comparing itself with Christianity, it claims to possess the most powerful means of converting the ignorant. Christianity only tells me to give, while Socialism instructs me to snatch. Mr. St. Loz Strachey has recently reminded us that our Puritan forefathers realised instinctively that men could not keep their bodily and spiritual freedom unless able to bear arms to defend their persons and liberties, therefore they placed the right to bear arms in the very forefront of the Petition of Right.

In these days arms are more complicated than the pikes and halberds of the Cromwellian era. To use arms teaching is required, and unless the British masses are taught the use of arms a Socialist victory, followed by foreign conquest, is our probably destiny. The choice lies between the Puritan and the predatory ideal. The day of the long purse as the means of adequate defence from enemies within and without is gone. Those that think that admirals and captains, generals and colonels, fleetmen and battalions can be hired to save a nation of money-getters from a hungry and efficient nation are the victims of illusion. Material power of fleets and armies is essential. Material power is not the first essential. We need a new sense of jeopardy and willingness to make the sacrifice to avert the nation's jeopardy.

In the New Way of Life let us take our nation as we find it, and seek neither to rend, to remodel, nor to overturn it; only to consolidate and to unite. Whether a man is millionaire, landowner, lawyer, labourer, writer, stockbroker, shopkeeper, or merchant, his service is required to consolidate and to unite those whom our opponents would fain put asunder. We reap today the consequences of Henry the Eighth's confiscation of the monastery funds. The discontent of the people is justified, but the worst misery among them is unspoken—it is unheard on the platform: needs seeking out. Our enemies are to be found not only in foreign aggression and godless Communism, but wherever a mother shirks her motherhood, wherever a rich man idles, a sweater sweats, or a bureaucrat or a politician fears responsibility. Three courses are open: The Socialist plan, drab uniformity by compulsion; the Cobdenite doctrine of labour as a commodity, with commercial competition as the national ideal; there remains a third—the Unionist plan for securing the destiny of a proud, resolute, prosperous, and united people.

## NEWS OF THE WORLD.

**AHMADABAD** (Central India), Sunday.—While the Viceroy and Lady Minto were driving through this town yesterday evening a bomb exploded in one of the streets adjacent to the passing carriages. Immediately after the explosion the body of a man, with his hand torn off, was found lying on the ground, and near him a bomb unexploded. This bomb was filled with that powerful French explosive known as melinite. Just as the Viceroy's carriage was passing it was noticed that a Hindu among the spectators raised his hand and hurled some object away from him. (Later).—After this first outrage the carriage containing the Earl of Minto and his wife continued through the city, and a few moments later another alarming incident took place. From out of the dense crowd two spears were thrown, both of which struck the carriage without doing any hurt. It appears that one spectator was injured by the bomb explosion.

**BUENOS AYRES**, Sunday.—A man aged 20, presumably an Anarchist, this morning hurled a bomb beneath a carriage in which were the Prefect of Police and his secretary. The vehicle was shattered to fragments, while the Prefect and his secretary were killed on the spot. Before the police could seize him the bomb-thrower had drawn a pistol from his pocket and severely wounded himself with a bullet in the head.

**CHERRY** (Illinois), Sunday.—Early this morning a frightful explosion occurred in the mine belonging to the St. Paul Coal Company. According to an announcement by the mine officials, 400 miners have met their death by the catastrophe. Following on the explosion fire broke out in the pit, and the work of rescue had to be immediately abandoned so that the helpers might concentrate all their energy on extinguishing the fire. (Later).—According to further reports, the disaster was caused by a fire which started in a bundle of fodder. The mine officials believe that at least 400 men have met their death in the burning pit. Five hours after the explosion twelve bodies had been recovered. The manager of the mine reports that it is almost impossible for the entombed men to be still living. Since there are no means of flooding the shaft, it has been decided to close up the mine in the hope of putting out the flames, which continue to ascend as high as the mouth of the shaft. Most of the men entombed are Austrians or Italians. (Later).—It is now stated that 250 miners have lost their lives, this being the number enclosed in the burning pit. It is out of the question to render them any assistance whatever.

**BRISTOL**, Sunday.—Admiral Lord Charles Beresford held a speech here last night in which he declared that the Navy was not prepared for war. Four battleships, cruisers, stores, and dock accommodation were lacking; the Admiralty had no coal reserve and there was a grave shortage in officers and men. The extensive manœuvres of 1908 and 1909 Lord Charles described as farcical. The speech has caused a great sensation.

**LONDON**, Sunday.—Upon returning from West Hartlepool to his home at Castle Eden, Westmoreland, on Saturday evening, Mr. Dodd, a well known North of England solicitor, found his four children, ranging from six years to eight months old, lying dead with their throats cut. It is believed that Mrs. Dodd committed the horrible deed in a fit of temporary madness, and then took poison. Her body has not yet been found.

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