

THE LABOUR LEAFLET.

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SOCIALISM!

Socialists contend that each who can work shall work, and that every labourer, whether hodman or architect, Prime Minister, or road-scraper, ought to receive the due reward of his labour. The command "Six days shalt thou labour" to apply to all who have health of body and mind.

Every one to have a fair share of leisure; but no one to live in idleness upon rent or interest no healthy adult to receive wealth for which he has not worked. No monopoly of education and culture for those who tax the worker by living on interest and rent.

English Workers pay to Landlords and Capitalists £400,000,000 a year for permission to use that which God gave, and past generations made. Hence the prevailing poverty and distress!

Similar to our English fellow brethern of toil, Irish workers pay somewhere about £150,000,000, and us the Scottish working folks pay something about £100,000,000, in all £650,000,000, to drones or predatory animals.

All who toil and are honest, should take attentive note of above statistical illustration of dishonesty to memory, and also remember that The Definition of SOCIALISM, in reference to the Land Question in a nut shell, meaning is — The Abolition of Land monopoly by taking the Land from individual owners, and restoring it through practicable utilities, to the benefit of the whole community proper, and with the Mosaic Land Law, enforced namely — The Land shall not be bought and sold for ever, for the Land is mine saith the Lord." [OVER]

THE IRISH QUESTION.

Socialism, not violence, the true remedy.

Certain persons called landlords possess the legal privilege of making the workers give to them a portion of the fruits of their labour, but these workers are dimly awaking to the fact that this legal privilege is unjust — in short a legalised theft. Consequently these workers more and more frequently refuse to give in reponse to the demands of the landlords, who in their turn do exactly what a highwayman or burglar does when he is strong enough : they shoot down or otherwise kill those who refuse to give to them, in order to terrorise the rest into giving. In order to defend themselves against these attempts of the landlords to solve the matter by violence and murder, the workers form two associations, the National League and the plan of Campaign; but to meet this the landlords and those who are interested in upholding the legal right of the rich to take from the poor, pass a law which makes it criminal to point out the advantage of belonging to these associations. Consequently hundreds have been imprisoned for inciting men to join the plan of Campaign and the National League. The avowed object of the Government is, if we may judge by what Balfour told Blunt in the now memorable conversation (See *Standard* March 15th, page 3 — col. 5), "to get rid of the Chief Irish Leaders through, the operation of the Crimes Act, either by heavy sentences endangering their lives, or by frightening them out of the country." Now, the result of the killing of the Irish peasants, whether killing by eviction in the cold and snow after their huts are burned by petroleum-men of Balfour, or killing by the bayonets of the military police, has been simply to infuriate the remainder of the peasants and make them more ardent in their resolution to bring to an end that system of landlordism which enables certain men by virtue of inherited or purchased privilege to systematically dispoil others. Similarly Balfour's endeavours to get rid of the Irish Leaders by endangering their lives has failed, for where the Irish Leaders have been imprisoned, Englishmen have not hesitated to come forward to take their places: instead of diminishing the number of political opponents by this sort of thing, the reverse has happened. So far Balfour has benefited the cause of the emancipation of the wronged, by in the first place strengthening in them the spirit of revolt and secondly awaking a sympathetic feeling among those who personally have no ground of complaint. In addition Balfour (see Leaflet Newspaper No. 4 and *Standard* of Feb. 24th 1888) has distinctly recognised that the basis of the Irish revolt is Socialistic: a protest against non-workers forcibly taking from workers.

Considering all this, those who are working for the cause of Freedom in Ireland might well consider whether it is worth theirwhile to put themselves into Balfour's prisons, by verbally recommending their hearers to join the National League and the Plan of Campaign; whether indeed it would not be well to go deeper and teach the fundamental doctrines of Socialism. At the same time it would be necessary to expound the economic investigations of Marx and others who have so definitely traced the burden put upon the poor by the rich to the taking of rent and interest by private persons, and who have drawn such clear distinction between the the unearned increment which is of the nature of interest, and such wages of superintendence as are the just due of that labourer who organises industry or superintends the operations of a factory. If this is done the Irish peasant will see for himself that his immediate course is to support such defensive organisations as the National League and the Plan of Campaign.

Here is an example of the violent methods of the British tyrants in Ireland (*Evening News* March 20th. 1888). "The police then (at Drumlish), without making any attempt at arrest, charged the crowd with fixed bayonets. The crowd then threw stones, and the police retired and fired on the people from the top windows of the barracks. Many people were wounded." They aggravated the crowd into stone throwing, and then shot them!

To retire to the top windows where even the stones of the crowd could not reach them, and there to shoot, is a climax of cowardly murdering only paralleled in modern history by the massacre of Mitchelstown. Will not everyone who votes for the Tories at the next election be virtually a co-murderer?

NOTICE. — Not a few Members of the Alyth Liberal Association have shown themselves to be total coercionists against Labour Question being ventilated in any practical way. Let Members at once see to this elsewhere.

[Over.]

R. DEMPSTER.