We Socialists should rejoice, for it only proves that the great commercial crisis, which will stifle up the present system, is not far off, and that the far-seeing capitalist is getting out of a country which will soon be too hot for him. We shall soon have experience of the fact that the capitalists are the substitutes for the aristocracy that brought England to the verge of bankruptcy and national ruin. The birds are already beginning to fly before the coming storm.

Bryant and May have only been able to declare a dividend of 15 per cent. in place of the usual 20, and this in a time of improvement in trade! Surely you would think that this excellent firm, which is comparatively “servile,” would increase its dividends when trade is “improving.” It seems, after all, that the Socialist advice to boycott certain firms is bearing good fruit, and that Bryant and May’s advice (see advertisements) to the British consumer to patronize British industry, which is not given out by Bryant and May’s shareholders, has not had the effect which doubtless the advertisers hoped.

Meanwhile, we can only advise our comrades to go on recommending people to boycott Bryant and May. If we can knock off 5 per cent. every year, in a very little while, that firm of slave-drivers Quakers will be in the bankruptcy court, which, at least, we trust will be “some consolation to mankind.”

D. N.

**IMPRESSIONS OF THE PARIS CONGRESS.**

(Concluded from p. 264.)

On the Wednesday, after the introduction of a delegate from the far-off country of Finland, who was received with much enthusiasm, Bebel began the reading of the reports with a history of the German movement. This took two hours in the delivery. I think, and of course could not be translated; a short resume was all that could be given in French and English, but even from that it was plain that the original was able and exhaustive. I should mention that most, if not all, of the reports have been handed in in writing and will be printed; so that we shall have the benefit of noting the views of the delegates as to the position of the movement in the various countries.

A Spanish delegate (I think) followed Bebel, and spoke in his native tongue, which was translated by Lafargue. His address seemed em phatic.

In the evening the veteran Lavrov read a long and interesting report from Russia. After which came a threatening of the repetition of the fruitless noise of Monday evening, for what cause I as a stranger, am utterly unable to say. The chairman (Anseele), however, disposed of this pretty easily, though I think in England we should have thought him a little too ready to adopt the last resort of “chucking out.” The report for the “Women’s Section,” which was delivered, was of a speeches must be considered as the speech of the Congress, and was certainly splendid oratory. It was hardly a report, however, and to some of us there seemed to be a strong flavour of electioneering in it; which, considering the position of the French Social-Democrats, was of course to be expected.

Next morning, after some preliminaries, I was called upon to report for the Women’s Section, which was in the hands of our committee strongly of opinion that Keir Hardie, who represented the Parliamentary side of English Socialism, should have an opportunity of speaking to that side, and that we pressed this on the Committee. In the light of what occurred later, I think ought to be noticed. I was told that the time now pressed so much that the rest of the speakers of reports would be asked to keep within ten minutes, which I tried to do—and I think kept within twenty. I handed in my written report later on.

I was followed by Adler, for Austria, who by no means imitated my brevity (nor did any one else). Volders reported for Belgium; Italy, Holland, and Norway were also reported. After the report of the special reports,—i.e., for associations, etc. Keir Hardie spoke for the Scotch miners; I missed his speech, and chiefly remember a speech of the delegate for the Writers’ Association—very straightforward and to the point, complaining of the irrational contempt in which these luckless slaves of the well-to-do are held even by their working brethren; and talking of a speech of Madame Zetkin, who represented the working women of Berlin, as a woman who had been first manufactured and then punished by our robber Shun-anony. We understood that he would have an opportunity of moving this resolution; but the opportunity did not turn up.

Two or three Anarchists spoke in this sitting, and spoke well enough to my mind; they did not put forward any resolutions only to express their esteem for the congress. The last man to speak was a delegate; who, instead of thoroughly strongly appealing for revolution, sat silent.

The gibe of one Anarchist deserves to be mentioned. That evening (Friday) the Paris Municipality threw open the last meeting to the public; the shouting of the rabble, the atrocity to which the police have been driven, and to the party brought England to the verge of bankruptcy and national ruin. The birds are already beginning to fly before the coming storm.

Bryant and May have only been able to declare a dividend of 15 per cent. in place of the usual 20, and this in a time of improvement in trade! Surely you would think that this excellent firm, which is comparatively “servile,” would increase its dividends when trade is “improving.” It seems, after all, that the Socialist advice to boycott certain firms is bearing good fruit, and that Bryant and May’s advice (see advertisements) to the British consumer to patronize British industry, which is not given out by Bryant and May’s shareholders, has not had the effect which doubtless the advertisers hoped.

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