

SOCIALISM IN SYDNEY.

— 10 —

The Australian Socialist League held their weekly meeting last Sunday, the subject for discussion being "Russian Nihilists and their Land Leaguers." Comrade Drake occupied the chair. Mr. McNamara dealt very ably with his subject, explaining the rise of Socialism and its present position in Russia. He detailed how men and women belonging to the aristocratic classes left their lives of ease and luxury to go among the people and preach the gospel of social salvation; how Prince Kropotkin, second to the late Czar, putting aside his rank and pleasure, donned the costume of the artisan to preach Socialism to a suffering people; his subsequent arrest and escape from the fortresses of St. Paul, and his imprisonment in France by the black jobbery hagsman's republic, etc. the distribution of Russia. The speaker referred to the ever increasing volume of political offenders and suspects which were sent to Siberia and remote parts of the empire; journeys of thousands of miles, mostly on foot, and occupying from two years to two years and a half in a complete; the over-crowding of the prisons and the intense suffering of the poor women and children accompanying their husbands and fathers to their place of banishment; and all because these poor people claimed the right to life, and happiness, and freedom.

Referring to Ireland he pointed out that the same principle was working destruction and misery there: the use of force and brutality to extract rents which the people of Ireland had no means of paying, and which said rents were the lawful property of those who earned them, and not of those English and Irish landlords who employed "all the resources of civilisation" to compel from a defenceless people.

Comrade Drake said we need not go so far as Russia—need not go from Sydney even—to find examples practised, fitted to rank with the darkest infamies of Russian bureaucracy. The Newington Asylum furnished examples of "man's inhumanity to man," not to be spoken of without warmth, and urged upon the audience the duty of dragging this matter to the light of day and not to rest until such sufferings were banished from our midst.

The meeting shortly after adjourned, it being arranged to discuss the Manifesto of the League at the meeting next Sunday, which will be held at 533 George-street. SOCIALIST.

ARTIST—According to the *Nottingham* a large picture representing the "Giant" being dragged down by a "Giant" in several regions. This extraordinary picture is lent round to the tea meetings by the Primrose dames.

INVENTIONS—A new break—which is of great service to draymen and which has been invented by Messrs. and Dawson (two working engineers) has been made which allows a horse to descend a hill with a full load. The peculiar construction of the dray enables the driver to push the load forward when ascending a hill, and backward when descending, thus securing a great saving of the horse in the shafts, while the break is powerful enough to lock both wheels if necessary. It is to be hoped that the inventors will reap the full reward of their useful invention.

HALL OF SCIENCE.—The adjourned debate on "Imperium, its Cause and Cure," was concluded at the above hall on Sunday evening. Several persons took part in the discussion, amongst them Messrs. Rogers, Hewitt, Hicks, Wilde, and Wallwork and Wimpac.