

THE LITERARY DIGEST.

June 5, 1897*Vol. XV. No. 6

~p. 175~

Why Englishmen Resist Socialism.—Liebknecht, the celebrated leader of the German Socialists, is very much dissatisfied with the progress of Socialism in England. In his opinion the English people show much less tendency to begin the great revolution than their condition justifies. The wisdom of the authorities, is, however, responsible for this. He writes in the *Neue Zeit*, Berlin, to the following effect :

The common people are poorer and live worse in England than in Germany, and there are more Socialist bacilli in the former country than in the latter. Yet the bacilli do not increase fast enough. This is easy to explain. The English police do not assist in breeding them. In England you may hold meetings as much as you like, keep on speechifying until the speaker and the hearers fall in a fainting fit, rail at the Queen to your heart's content, and call the ministers of state all the bad names under the sun, without police interference. You may utter as many insulting remarks as you please about the royal family, and you will not be arrested for doing so. All this prevents Socialism from gaining strength. An *Umsturz* Party can not thrive under such conditions.

In Germany the police take care that the conditions necessary for the development of revolutionary parties are always present. While the English workingmen may say what they like when they meet where they like, the German workingmen may not do these things without the permission of the police. A meeting can not be held without a permit. The police send their representatives, listen to everything that is said, prosecute speakers who are wanting in circumspection, and often close a meeting in the most arbitrary manner.

The *Vossische Zeitung*, Berlin, remarks that this explanation is anything but flattering to the Socialists. It proves that the Social-Democratic Party does not seek to gather strength from its own program, but from the mistakes of its opponents. The *Handelsblad*, Amsterdam, draws still stronger conclusions. It asserts that Liebknecht's explanation proves Socialism to be altogether incompatible with freedom of speech. The *Nord-Ost See Zeitung* thinks the German Socialists are aware that English freedom of speech would produce different results in Germany. Germans would not be content with mere talk. They would consider themselves in honor bound to make good their words, however hastily uttered.—*Translations made for THE LITERARY DIGEST.*

OldMagazineArticles.com