

Notes from:
The East London Observer, 1869

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Technology

1869-01-02: ELO 008 "The East London Observer which has now entered upon its Eleventh Year of Publication and been permanently enlarged to forty-eight columns, Is the Only Local Paper that circulates throughout the *whole* of the Tower Hamlets (inclusive of the new Borough of Hackney), comprising the several Parishes or Districts of Mile-end, Stepney, Whitechapel, St. George's East, Spitalfields, Limehouse, Bethnal green, Poplar, Bow, Shadwell, Shoreditch, Hackney, &c., &c., and containing a population of 700,000 persons.

The proceedings of the several Local Board of the District, Public Meetings, Lectures, and matters of interest are fully and specially reported, and the leading Local Topics impartially commented upon." ...

1869-01-09: ELO 002 The Poor-Law System

adjourned discussion of the Economy Department of the Social Science Association, at the Whittington Club, Arundel St., Strand, S. Morley in chair. Morley: "there was an immense amount of suffering in London", "It was apparently only by accidental investigation that benevolent persons were moved to look into the subject".

Townshend.

Brook: against Dr. Stallard (who had said pauperism stands in same relationship to society as crime and must be treated as such), "contended that poverty and pauperism were not crimes, and that they ought not to be ranked as such."

"Mr. Bates advocated emigration as being the best way so stem the growing tide of pauperism".

"Mr. Patterson considered that the present poor-law system was calculated to turn an honest working man into a pauper, and that it ought to be revised."

1869-01-09: ELO 003 Metropolitan Pauperism
figures given

1869-01-09: ELO 003 Workmen's Trains

Success of the metropolitan association for procuring cheap railway accommodation at convenient hours for the working classes: North London Railway now issues workmen's weekly tickets on any morning instead of

Monday morning only. Trains will be arranged to run from 5am, so as to allow the humblest artificer to leave Homerton or Bow at an early hour enough to meet his engagements in the heart of the city at 6 or 7 o'clock.

1869-11-20-: ELO 006 Distribution of Prizes to the Bethnal Green Science Classes

Bethnal green Nation Schools, Rev. S. Hansard, MA, rector of the Parish, presided, address by Charles Buxton MP Surrey

1869-11-20: ELO 003 The East London Emigrants in Canada

lecture at School-room, Bow-lane, Poplar, by E. H. Currie, just returned from Canada where he met emigrants from East end of London many had fared much better than in Poplar, urges people of poplar to go to Canada, as prosperity in Poplar is over for a long time

1869-11-20: ELO 004 (Commentary) Mr. Ayrton's Re-election

1869-11-27: ELO 007 Reduction of Taxation

public meeting of inhabitants of parish of Hackney, "in furtherance of a large reduction in the national expenditure, and remission of taxes upon trade, industry, and employment."

William Green in chair, on platform J. Holms MP and John Noble (hon. Sec. of Financial Reform Association)

Letter by Charles Reed MP unable to attend.

Green: taxation question affects all, "and especially to the inhabitants of a district like that, where there was so much distress. ... The landed interest did not now bear anything like their fair share of taxation.

J. Holms traced rise in taxation to Crimean War, moves resolution for reduction of national taxation. Calls for reductions of duties in tea, coffee and sugar, as previous reductions had increased consumption and benefited trade.

Noble: seconds resolution, "the people were deluded by the system of indirect taxation into bearing a burden which they would not otherwise submit to for a week."

Patrick Hennessy supports resolution.

Brooks: moves other resolution: "that the present depression in trade and the increasing pauperism are caused by the free importation of foreign manufactures, which are displacing British-made goods, both at home and abroad, and consequently depriving the working classes of England of employment, and that reduction of taxation alone will not remedy, nor materially alleviate, the present distress." Had himself been forced by unequal competition to stop business, thereby cease employing 3-400 persons.

Kelsey seconds.

Noble: "that what Mr. Brooks contended for was the restoration of protection (Hear, hear.) That gentleman was a silk manufacturer (hear), and it would be impossible to protect the silk trade without protecting all others as well".

Brooks' resolution rejected by large majority.

1869-12-04: ELO 002 (Leserbrief) A Draper's Assistant: The Early Closing Movement

asks for support of association in getting Christmas Monday off for assistants in East End

1869-12-11: ELO 005 Freemasonry

1869-12-11: ELO 006 Bethnal Green Trade Restoration Society

meeting at Peel-grove Hall "to protest against the havoc which, it is alleged, that partial free trade is making with British industry, and to advocate the reinforcement of a system of protective duties or of reciprocity on the parts of foreign countries."

E. Ward (churchwarden) presided, but rather as listener than one definitely pledged to the views.

Thos. Brooks main speaker, also Colliss, Tempest (starving weaver), Ferdinando.

Resolutions moderate, calling for "inquiry into the effect of unrestricted free trade upon British industry".

Atkins and Buttery dispute the fact that distress (Atkins: case of silk weavers, vgl. Stedman Jones, Outcast London, 24) is caused by French Treaty.

Meeting "was unmistakably one of *bona fide* working men".

1869-12-18: ELO 006 (Leserbrief) Alsager Hay Hill, Hon. Sec. [Soc. for Organising Charities in Buckingham St.], 15 Buckingham St., Strand: Organisation of Charities

against letter by Rev. Septimus Hansard

1869-12-25: ELO 003 Bethnal Green Board of Guardians

Rev. Septimus Hansard a member