

narrowed down to Socialism pure and simple, it may conduce to the steadying of the nerves of the prophetic Master of Elibank if these highly instructive totals are clearly set out:

Total of votes cast at the General Election	. . . 5,952,274
Total recorded for "straight" Socialists	. . . 26,744

I make no subtraction here, for the obvious reason that it would inevitably be misleading. There were Socialist societies, at Newcastle-upon-Tyne and elsewhere, which advised their members to abstain from voting because no "straight" Socialist was running as a candidate. In their eyes—and now in Mr. Keir Hardie's—the L.R.C. nominees, in accepting Liberal support, had enleaguéd themselves with "the devotees of Mammon." Then, again, there were conspicuous Socialists, like Mr. Pete Curran at Jarrow, who desired it to be understood that they were in the field for Parliamentary honours as Labour candidates and not as Socialists. By inference they admitted that the emphasis which their opponents laid upon their Socialism was injurious to their candidature, a tacit acknowledgment of the unpopularity of revolutionary views even in wholly industrial constituencies. Well-known Socialists like Mr. Philip Snowden, at Blackburn, and Mr. F. W. Jowett, in Bradford West, stood as L.R.C. candidates, and, in the eyes of the stricter sect of Socialist brethren, thereby fatally compromised the cause. We shall see, later, how far this fear has been justified. At the Trade Union Congress, in Liverpool, the President (Mr. D. C. Cummings) quoted, from some curiously inaccurate "guide" not particularly specified, the following comparative return of the General Election polls:

Liberal votes	. . . 2,417,979
Combined Labour votes	. . . 473,987
Social Democratic votes	. . . 41,820
Unionist votes	. . . 2,200,898

Apart from the singular fact that (omitting Ireland) there are over 300,000 votes missing from this return, both the Liberal