

Free speech in London

From the Minute Book of the Metropolitan Radical Federation for 1886. The Minute and Attendance books of the M.R.F. are now in the possession of Ken Sprague by whose kind permission we print this extract.

**E. C. Meeting, Wednesday Aug. 15th 8 pm.
Hall of Science Club, Old St. EC.**

The minutes of the last meeting were (read) and confirmed on the motion of Mr. Ellis seconded by Mr. Standring. Letter read from Mr. G. W. Foote and one from Mr. H. H. Sparling.

A deputation consisting of Mr. W. Morris and Mr. Lane from the Socialist League were in attendance.

Mr. Standring moved and that the deputation be allowed to be present during any
Mr. Catt seconded discussion upon the matter involved.

Mr. R. O. Smith moved & an amendment that the deputation be asked to return.
Mr. Warner seconded

Mr. Standring was allowed to withdraw his motion and the amendment was ultimately unanimously agreed to.

Mr. W. Morris made a statement on the recent police prosecution of Socialists re the Bell Street case and other interesting remarks. —Mr. Lane the co-delegate adding a very few words.

The Deputation withdrew after a discussion the following resolution was moved by Mr. Standring seconded by Mr. Ellis and ordered to be sent to the Secretary of the Socialist League “That in the event of any collective meeting of the Socialist Party being called together re the Police and Socialists and Public Meetings & members of the Executive together with the Officers to be appointed to attend such meeting and report proceedings to the Council of the Federation.”

Messrs Standring Butter and Bell were elected as the Sub-Executive together with the Treas. and Hon. Sec. Mr. Ellis moved “That the Sec. call a special meeting of the Council for the purpose of obtaining an expression of opinion on the proposed Socialist Demonstration to be held on Sunday August 29th.”

Mr. Smith moved an amendment “That we proceed to next business” but as there was no seconder to the original proposition it fell through.