

community had been one of savages, to whom science had never taught the first and simplest lessons." To show the importance of such questions, he would mention that if the death rate by diarrhoeal diseases had been only ten times the minimum rate, 20,000 lives would have been annually saved. He had omitted to mention the two other medical inquiries which had been granted for Ireland—namely, the investigation into the sanitary condition of children in the North Dublin Union by Drs. Corrigan and Evory Kennedy in 1843, and that into the mortality in the Clare unions by Drs. Hill and Hughes in 1849.

IV.—*Proceedings of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland.*

[Tuesday Evening, 28th November, 1865.]

The Society met at 35, Molesworth-street, The Right Hon. Mr. Justice O'Hagan, V.P., in the Chair.

His Excellency, the Lord Lieutenant (the Lord Wodehouse) honoured the Society with his presence.

The Hon. Judge Longfield, President, and the following Vice-Presidents, were present :—Edward Barrington, J.P. ; Jonathan Pim, M.P. ; John K. Ingram, LL.D., F.T.C.D. ; and James Haughton, J.P.

Mr. Gibson, Hon. Sec., read the minutes.

Mr. O'Shaughnessy, Hon. Sec., read the Report of the Council.

The Chairman delivered the inaugural address.

Mr. Justice O'Hagan having vacated the Chair, the Hon. Judge Longfield was called thereto.

The Right Hon. John Barrington, Lord Mayor of Dublin, proposed "That the thanks of the Society be hereby offered to the Right Hon. Mr. Justice O'Hagan for the Address with which this Session has been inaugurated, and that he be requested to hand the same to the Secretaries for publication in the Journal of the Society."

His Lordship said he thought it would ill become him, after the eloquent, able, and exhaustive address which they had heard, to add any words to commend it to their attention. The learned judge had given them a very clear statement of the progress and operations of the Society from its commencement, and the important objects which claimed its attention. His reference to the Registration Act for the transfer of land in Ireland, and his practical allusions to the present deplorable state of Irish Railways, were well worthy of attention and would be read with interest by all.

Sir Colman O'Loughlen, M.P. Q.C., in seconding the resolution, said he was sure that every one who heard the address considered it worthy of the occasion, and all would agree with him that if it had been equalled it had never been surpassed by any delivered by those who on former occasions had occupied a similar position to that held by his right hon. friend that evening.

He rejoiced to find that his right hon. friend still retained his connection with that society since his elevation to his present high judicial position. There was one point in the address to which he wished specially to refer, namely, the subject of confining lunatics in the jails of Ireland. That matter had been frequently before the Legislature, and the only reason that some alteration in the law had not been made was the want of accommodation in the present lunatic asylums ; but he was happy to say that when the subject was brought under the notice of the House of Commons last session by Mr Blake, the Chief Secretary for Ireland had intimated that a change would be made in the treatment of lunatics in Ireland when the new Asylums now in process of erection were finished. Another subject of importance with which the address had dealt was that of railway management. He hoped the Royal Commission now sitting, would have a good result, and that some change would be effected in the present unsatisfactory system. He was confident they would all cordially agree in the vote of thanks to his right hon. friend.

The motion was unanimously adopted.

Mr. Jonathan Pim, M.P., said—"I have been permitted to move a resolution, which I know will commend itself to the feelings of all in the room :—'That the Society tenders to His Excellency, the Lord Lieutenant, its grateful acknowledgments for the countenance and support which His Excellency by his presence has given our Association.' We all know the arduous duties which necessarily engage His Excellency's attention during the day, and considering the pressure of these engagements, and considering also the inclemency of the weather this evening, which would tempt any man with a good roof over his head to stay at home, we should feel doubly indebted to His Excellency for coming there ; and we are bound to give expression to our sense of the condescension he had shown, and the interest he had evinced in the proceedings of the Statistical Society. I believe His Excellency, when in England, belonged to a society, or societies, having similar objects to ours, and it might therefore be expected that he would take some interest in such inquiries in Ireland. Statistics are the data on which legislation should be founded, and the objects of our Society is to obtain and verify these data ; and the discussions which take place between men of different creeds and different views in politics, as well as different pursuits in life—thus regarding every question from so many different points of view—are particularly adapted to elicit truth: such societies are therefore well entitled to the support of statesmen. The Vice-President in his address this evening referred to the Act for Recording Titles in Ireland which was passed in last session of Parliament. I felt some surprise at hearing my name so prominently mentioned in connection with the passing of this Act. Certainly I have long looked to legislation of this nature with hope, and when the subject was brought forward by MR. Torrens, the Registrar-General of South Australia, I at once offered my assistance in any attempt that might be made to introduce into Ireland a system similar to that which had been established by MR. Torrens in

Australia; but the success of the exertions used to promote that measure, whatever its result may be, and I trust the result will be highly beneficial, was mainly due to the ability, the great personal labour, and the unwearied energy of another member of our Society, Mr. Henry Dix Hutton. I hope the working of this Act will eventually tend to give greater security to the farmers, by reducing the cost of leases and thus removing one objection to their general adoption, and still more by facilitating the sale of land in small lots through the reduced cost of the conveyance. I wish also to refer to the remarks of the Vice-President respecting railways. I well remember the first proposition for the introduction of railways into Ireland, and the report of the Commissioners, of whom Thomas Drummond was the Chief. I recollect these transactions the more clearly, because a relative of mine, the late James Pim, the Treasurer of the Kingstown Railway Company, was in constant communication with Mr. Drummond on this subject, and I often heard him speak of the progress of the Commission. I took a warm interest in the question, and felt much disappointed when the project was rejected by the House of Commons, principally through the opposition of the late Sir Robert Peel. At the present time the Government shows some inclination to go back on its steps, and to revert to the plan then proposed, by which the railways, in Ireland at least, would have been the property of the state, and be conducted under public management and control. The subject is one that deserves the most serious consideration, as the present system certainly does not work satisfactorily. I have much pleasure in proposing the resolution which I have already read."

Mr. Michael Morris, M.P., said—"The council of this society have imposed upon me the agreeable duty of seconding the resolution, 'That the Society tenders to His Excellency the Lord Lieutenant its grateful acknowledgments for the countenance and support which His Excellency, by his presence, has given our association.' As a good play requires no epilogue, so this resolution has been so well proposed by Mr. Pim as to require nothing from me to add; yet you may possibly expect me to say something, and I confess I should myself feel strange sitting down without doing so. This society properly thanks His Excellency for giving, by his presence here, not alone the sanction to its objects of the representative of our Sovereign, but also that of a nobleman of tried and admitted ability, and a distinguished member of kindred societies. On the other hand, this Society well deserves such support. While it forbids the discussion of mere political subjects in the popular sense of that word, it does deal with politics in its more extended and better signification. As a Statistical Society it cultivates the knowledge to be derived from well ascertained figures, not as subjects of arithmetical skill, nor for the purposes similar to that of the accountant, who enquires from his employer on which side he should like the balance to be struck, although I am afraid just occasionally papers dealing with statistics have issued from this Society which appeared to have been prepared to meet foregone conclusions. This Society also deals with Social Inquiries tending to improve the material prosperity of our country, as distinguished from the con-

sideration of the redress of sentimental grievances; and what greater social phenomenon can engage the attention of any scientific Society, than the contrast between the condition of our own and the sister kingdom? Why, may it be said of them,

“ One flaunts in rags,
The other flutters in brocade.”

I trust that some advance may be made in the lessening of this admitted inequality in material prosperity during His Excellency's reign in this kingdom, and that when leaving for some other sphere of public duty he may be able to congratulate himself on a well developed change for the better in the condition of our country.”

His Excellency the LORD LIEUTENANT said:—“ My honourable friend who was good enough to propose the resolution which you have adopted with such unanimity, alluded to the fact that I am a member of kindred societies in England. I have, as it chances, the honour of being a member of two societies, the Political Economy Society, and also the Statistical Society, in London, and my honourable friend remarked that that must give me special interest in this society; but from my position I must feel an interest in all societies in this city attended by a large number of intelligent gentlemen. My right honourable friend in his very able address alluded to reasons why inquiries of a statistical nature are especially important in this country, and he pointed out in a feeling manner the difficulties which all have to contend with who have any connection with the endeavours to improve the condition of this country. He had in his mind the long series of years of difficulties with which this country had to struggle; and how important it is that while many of those difficulties still remain, there should be a society where gentlemen of different religious opinions and various political views can meet and discuss calmly subjects so deeply interesting to their common country. It may be said that this is a mere commonplace remark, but I agree with my right honourable friend who introduced this subject this evening, that it is not a mere commonplace, but a subject of deep and paramount importance. There is not, perhaps, anything of greater importance than this, to find out our common points of contact, and the means of bringing together different classes and different opinions. Thus it tends to further the sound progress and prosperity of the country. I do not know that I altogether agree with my right hon. friend in his opinion upon ‘abstract opinions.’ No doubt I chance to belong to an exceedingly dry society—the Political Economy Society—and there imbibed greater veneration for abstract opinions. I have had a double initiation, and being thus double-dyed with these abstract principles, I cordially agree with him that, however necessary it is that there should be abstract opinions, the important matter was to apply them judiciously. The honourable gentleman who seconded this vote of thanks to me has not much more faith in figures than my right honourable friend in abstract principles, and between them they have swept away the basis upon which this society is founded. Notwithstanding the insecure foundation on which statistics stand, both they and abstract principles are worth something. Imperfections creep

in, and no doubt it was to these my honourable and learned friend alluded, and that he did not exactly mean that figures were made for facts, but rather that facts were made from figures. My right honourable friend introduced a variety of important topics in a clear and judicious manner, and it would not be convenient to follow him into the details of these different subjects. Gentlemen, there was one subject which I must allude to, because it is one upon which action has actually taken place, I mean the improvement of the law for the preservation of parliamentary titles to land. I myself have taken some interest in the subject, although unworthy to have an opinion on so legal a matter, but I was a member of the committee of the House of Lords, and this subject was brought under my notice, and I had great satisfaction in furthering the measure which afterwards passed into law. How that measure may work remains to be seen, but at all events you have a measure to be tried, and it will be easy afterwards to introduce such details as experience may suggest. Gentlemen, I do not think that you, in passing this vote of thanks to me, were unmindful of the fact that whoever may be entrusted with the arduous duties of my position must look to receiving—I will not say the approbation—but the support of all conscientious and reasonable persons in his endeavours to discharge the responsible duties of the office with which I am entrusted. Gentlemen, I will only say in conclusion that, as my honourable friend said who introduced the resolution, it is a matter of great pleasure to those who have to discharge the duties of administration to be able to come to a society of this kind, where we can discuss subjects of great interest—and this society is especially interesting to me, as it was the first society-room in which I appeared on my arrival in this country.”

NINETEENTH SESSION.—SECOND MEETING.

[Tuesday, 19th December, 1865.]

The Society met at 35, Molesworth-street, Major-General Sir Thomas Larcom, K.C.B., in the Chair.

E. D. Mapother, M.D., read a paper entitled, “The unhealthiness of Irish Towns, and the want of Sanitary Legislation.”

The ballot having been examined, the following gentlemen were declared duly elected members of the Society:—Edmund Gerald Dease, Esq., J.P.; Rickard Donovan, Esq.; Joseph Fisher, Esq.; Arthur Hamill, Esq.; Rev. Professor Haughton, M.D.; James Little, Esq., M.D.; Right Hon. W. Monsell, M.P.; W. Mulholland, Esq.; James O’Rorke, Esq.

THIRD MEETING.

[Monday, 29th January, 1866.]

The Society met at 35, Molesworth-street, John Kells Ingram, F.T.C.D. (V.P.) in the chair.

Mr. Charles H. Meldon read a paper entitled, “The Irish Bankrupt Code, with Suggestions for its Amendment.”

Mr. John Fallon read a paper entitled, “Observations on the Record of Title Act.”

The ballot having been examined, the following gentlemen were declared duly elected members of the Society.—Michael J. O'Shaughnessy, Esq.; Thomas Dunbar Ingram, LL.B.; William MacCormac, Esq., M.D.; Francis B. Quinlan, Esq., M.D.

FOURTH MEETING.

[Tuesday, 20th February, 1866]

The Society met at 35, Molesworth-street, James Haughton, J.P. (V.P.) in the chair.

Mr. Michael J. O'Shaughnessy read a paper "On the Government System for the Insurance of Lives, and the Grant of Annuities," (Acts 16 & 17 Vic., cap. 45, and 27 & 28 Vic., cap. 43.)

Mr. E. Harvey Wadge, F.G.S., read a paper entitled, "Commercial Information in relation to Finance and to expansion of Manufactures and Commerce."

The ballot having been examined, the following gentlemen were declared duly elected members of the Society:—Rev. William G. Carroll; Arthur Wynne Foote, Esq., M.D.; Robert J. Robertson, Esq.