

led to the hope that his presentation to the Statistical Society and to Trinity College would prove equally valuable to the production of historical, and statistical, and economic works on Ireland.

Few men have spent a more industrious life than Sir Thomas Larcom, in his forty-one years of public service in Ireland, commencing with a subordinate position on the Ordnance Survey, and ending with the high office of Under-Secretary; and few men have provided for the public being taken into council so soon after their death, to judge of their work and the motives by which they were actuated in their service for their country; and few have left such traces on the sands of time to help those who come after them in their work.

VII.—*Report of Council on Mr. Jephson's Suggestions as to Census for 1881.*

[*Read, 20th April, 1880.*]

Dublin, 14th February, 1880.

Sir,

The Council of this Society have had under their consideration the suggestions in the enclosed paper of Mr. Henry Jephson, read at the Society's meeting on the 17th inst., as to the importance of including in the census of 1881:—(1) The number of families and persons resident on farm holdings in Ireland of different sizes: and (2) Statistics of migratory agricultural labourers employed for upwards of six weeks in the year outside the electoral divisions or unions in which they reside, or out of Ireland.

The Council think Mr. Jephson's suggestions are, for the reasons stated in the paper, most valuable, and tend to increase the value of statistical science in Ireland.

Having regard to the fact that the enumerators employed for the census in Ireland are the Royal Irish Constabulary, who in June and October each year visit every agricultural holding for the purpose of collecting the agricultural statistics—first of acreage under crop, then of produce of crops—for the Registrar-General, who will be connected with the census, they think Mr. Jephson's plan could be carried out with great ease and without much expense; and by the constabulary checking it themselves, or (as in the case of the agricultural statistics) supplying the information as to the labourers; this branch of the statistics would have the same high character for reliability that the Irish agricultural statistics, collected by the Registrar-General's department, have long had.

The Council think it right to add, that as the Royal Irish Constabulary will visit each holding in Ireland in June next, at the time when the usual migration of labourers in an ordinary year will be at its maximum, and again in October, when it is at a minimum, it would be a matter of great importance to include in the agricultural statistics of 1880 some statistics as to how the men and youths

above fourteen, connected with each agricultural holding, were employed, and whether there was any difference in their employment this year than what was in 1876—the last year of ascertained prosperity.

This slight extension of the duties of the constabulary in collecting this additional information, would train them to do it perfectly at the census in April, 1881, and so save cost of checking and revising. The statistics would in the meantime be extremely valuable in judging of measures or demands for relief next winter, and if collected along with the agricultural statistics, would be collected without attracting the attention that an entirely independent inquiry would produce.

The Council strongly recommend Mr. Jephson's suggestions to the consideration of His Grace the Lord Lieutenant.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN K. INGRAM, *President.*

Right Hon. the Chief Secretary
for Ireland.

VIII.—*A Common Poor Fund for the Metropolis.* By W. H. Dodd, Esq., Barrister-at-Law.

[Read 20th April, 1880.]

THE Charity Organisation Committee of this Society, in their report in 1876, drew attention to the London system of having a common poor fund for the metropolitan unions, and suggested the desirability of extending this system to the Dublin unions. A reform which was commenced under Lord Palmerston's administration, and carried into effect under Lord Derby's administration, and extended by Mr. Goschen under Mr. Gladstone's administration, by the Metropolitan Poor Amendment Act, 1870, is one deserving consideration; and I propose to inquire if the principle on which it proceeded can be applied to the Dublin unions with advantage to the community.

There are within the metropolis of London at present thirty unions. The population may be taken roughly at about 3,000,000. In 1867 (by the Act 30 & 31 Vic. c. 6, sec. 61-72) there was established for the entire of the metropolitan unions a Metropolitan Common Poor Fund, and to this fund each of the unions contributed its fair proportion. The principle at the root of this reform was that the relief of the poor in the metropolis was a matter of equal interest to all portions of the entire metropolis. Huge as it is, London is one single community. The west cannot say to the east, "I have no need of thee;" nor ought the east to be compelled to say to the west, "We get no aid from thee." The value of the property inside the area of the metropolis is greater because it is inside that area, and as the entire property of the community is made more valuable by