

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

SEVENTEENTH SESSION.—EIGHTH MEETING.

[Wednesday, 8th June, 1864.]

The Society met at 35, Molesworth-street, Jonathan Pim, Esq. V.P. in the chair.

Mr. Henry T. Dix read a paper "On Trial by Jury, in relation to the subject of unanimity."

Mr. Richard P. Carton read a paper "On the Abolition of Imprisonment for Debt."

In accordance with Rule IV. cap. 4, the election of the Council for the ensuing session 1864 65 was held, and the following were declared elected :—

David Ross, LL.B.  
Robert McDonnell, M.D.  
Professor John E. Cairnes, A.M.  
D. Caulfeild Heron, LL.D., Q.C.  
Henry Dix Hutton, LL.B.  
James McDonnell, Esq.

George F. Shaw, LL.D., F.T.C.D.  
Charles E. Bagot, Esq.  
R. Denny Urlin, Esq.  
Professor Arthur Houston,  
E. D. Mapother, M.D.  
John Lentaigne, D.L.

V.—TOPICS SUGGESTED FOR INVESTIGATION AND DISCUSSION.

*DEPARTMENT I.—Jurisprudence and the Amendment of the Law, including the Subjects of the Punishment and Reformation of Criminals.*

I.—JURISPRUDENCE AND THE AMENDMENT OF THE LAW.

Comparative advantages of a code and of a digest of English law.—

How far a scientific digest is practicable—Suggestions as to the proper division of such a digest.—Propriety of appointing either a "Minister of Justice," or a Board or Council, charged with the revision of laws, the consolidation of statute law, &c.—Mode of dealing with such cases as now come (by way of appeal from the criminal courts) before the Lord Lieutenant and the Home Secretary.—Divergence of the statute laws of England and Ireland, and its effects.—Mode of providing for careful and consistent legislation for Ireland.

*The Superior Courts*, and their procedure.—Appeals to the House of Lords.—Practice in private bills, and before parliamentary committees.—Consideration of circuit arrangements.—The constabulary force, and its adaptability to the discovery of crime.—Should the accused be allowed to tender himself as a witness?—Landed Estates' Court, plan for the issue of land debentures.—Registration of title.—The Australian system.—Lord Westbury's system.—Bankruptcy and Insolvency Court.—English law of divorce, &c.—Power of protecting the wife's separate earnings.

*Inferior Courts.*—Justices of the peace and coroners;—how far the functions of both may be entrusted to stipendiary magistrates—Ecclesiastical Courts, and the Court of Delegates; their jurisdiction.—Registry office; plan of registering by maps, &c.—Proposal to place the office under the control of the Landed Estates' Court.—Grand jury system.

*General Law.*—Taxes on legal proceedings.—Proposed assimilation of real to personal property, in cases of intestacy.—Should imprisonment for debt be abolished?—Law of lunacy.—Questions of responsibility and legal competence in civil and in criminal cases;—how they should be dealt with?—Patent Laws.—Want of an official or public trustee.—The marriage laws.—Law of judgments.

*The Profession*—Should an examination in law be required before admission to the profession?—Should students be required to keep terms at the English inns of court?—Relation of the solicitors to the benchers of the King's Inns.—Government of the bar, and proper tribunal for settling questions of bar conduct and etiquette.

## II.—PUNISHMENT AND REFORMATION OF CRIMINALS.

*Convict Systems.*—The Irish.—The English.

Evils of associated gaols.—Deterrent punishments; are they effective?—Penal colonies; are they advisable?—Where can they be founded?—Do the earnings of prisoners legitimately interfere with honest labour?—Should the entire support of all prisoners be paid out of general or local taxes.—Should the management of all prisoners, and appointment of all officers, be entrusted to central instead of local authorities?—Provision for prisoners discharged and the measure of punishment.—Effects of the Penal Law Amendment Act, 1864.

*Patronage Societies*—How they should be worked.

Should education be compulsory up to a certain age?—Reformatories.—Necessity for an Irish Industrial Schools' act.—Working of the Irish Reformatory Schools' act.—Management of male and female schools.

How can a trade of receivers of stolen goods be checked?

*Secretaries to the Department,*

R. DENNY URLIN,

12, Leeson-park;

JAMES H. MONAHAN, JUN.

5, Upper Fitzwilliam-street.

*DEPARTMENT II.—Social Science, including Education; and Political Economy, including the Principles of Trade and Commerce.*

### I.—EDUCATION.

*Special Training for Professional Teachers.*—Propriety of providing means whereby persons intending to adopt teaching as a permanent profession, could acquire the art of managing the young, and conveying information.—Whether public institutions should be founded for this purpose, having the power to grant diplomas and

confer degrees in the faculty of education, as colleges of physicians and surgeons do in the faculties of medicine and surgery.

*Defects of Irish School Education.*—Subjects in which it would be desirable that our public schools should provide greater facilities for acquiring elementary information, e. g. the business of engineers, architects, actuaries, &c.—Advantages of the Scotch system of education, in which the instruction of the young in each branch of knowledge is undertaken by different teachers, in separate establishments, independent of each other.

*Practical and Industrial Training for the Labouring Classes.*—Policy of uniting industrial with literary education.—Proper employment to be taught in industrial schools.—Recent legislation on the subject.

## II.—SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ECONOMY.

*Taxation.*—Principle on which the share of the imperial expenditure to be borne by each component part of the empire should be fixed.—Whether on that principle Ireland is over-taxed.

*Public Expenditure.*—Principle on which the share of the imperial revenue expended in each locality should be fixed.—Whether on that principle the amount of public money expended in Ireland should be increased.—Whether such increase would benefit the country; how far, and in what way.

*Emigration.*—Point up to which emigration is a benefit; and point at which it becomes an evil, political, social, or economic.—Has emigration reached the latter point in Ireland.—Alleged influence of absenteeism in promoting emigration of lower classes?—Would return of absentees to Ireland check emigration, and how?—Phenomena disclosed by reports of Emigration commissioners.

*Poor Laws.*—Difference between Irish and English systems of poor relief, and reasons for such difference.—Boards of Guardians, their constitution, their powers, and the mode in which they exercise same.—Vagrancy; reasons for its prevalence in Ireland.

*Industrial Condition and Prospects of Ireland.*—Flax cultivation; limits which it may be expected permanently to attain.—Extent to which the co-operative system has been carried out in this country.—How far want of knowledge and enterprise on the part of capitalists, and of habits of industry on the part of workmen, have impeded the growth of manufactures in Ireland.

*Provident Societies.*—Working of the Friendly Society Acts.—Necessity for government protection for the provident investments of the working classes.—Loan funds, savings' banks; their operation and effects.

## III.—INTERNATIONAL LAW.

*Belligerent Rights at Sea.*—Right of search.—Contraband of war.—Blockade.

*Consular Courts.*—Policy of establishing such tribunals, and with what jurisdiction.

*Non-intervention.*—Its true principle.—How to be enforced.

*Colonics.*—The benefits they confer on the mother country.—How far they are an equivalent for the expenditure incurred on their account.—Principles on which colonial legislation should be con-

ducted.—How the conflict of their laws with those of the mother country is to be prevented.—Right of appeal to Queen in Council.—Colonial waste lands; should they be retained by the mother country, or made over to the colony.

*Secretaries to the Department,*

GEORGE W. ABRAHAM,  
17, Upper Buckingham-street;  
ARTHUR HOUSTON,  
40, Trinity College.

*DEPARTMENT III.—Public Health and Sanitary Reform.*

*Public health, embracing topics connected with the relative healthfulness of different localities, of different industrial occupations, and with the influence of external circumstances on the maintenance of health and the prevention of disease.*

*Public Health in general.*—The most efficient method of combining with the existing registration of births and deaths in this country a scheme for the registration of disease.—Systems for the medical relief of the poor, and for the control or prevention of outbursts of epidemic disease.—The English system.—The Irish system.—The Scotch system.—The merits and disadvantages of each compared with the systems in other countries.

*The Conditions of Public Health and the causes which modify it.*—Statistics of disease prevalent in particular localities.—Marriages of consanguinity.—Results as to sterility.—Results as to deafness and dumbness.—Results as to the transmission of hereditary disease, &c.—Early marriage.—Effects on the sex and health of the offspring when a difference of twenty, thirty, or forty years exists between the parents.—Statistical information regarding diseases peculiar to particular trades.—Suggestions for the control of prostitution and the diminution of the ill effects arising from it to the public health.—Suicide.—Statistics of suicide in prisons and lunatic asylums compared with similar attempts elsewhere.—The causes which increase or diminish insanity in general.

*The Improvement of the Public Health, with its social and economical aspects.*—Hygienic precautions of a mechanical kind.—As regards ventilation.—Water supply.—Effective systems of sewerage.—Construction of dwellings of the poor, of hospitals, workhouses, prisons, &c. with a view to the maintenance of health.—Hygienic suggestions for the prevention of disease.—Preventive therapeutics statistically considered.—Death rates.—Early death rates—in towns—in rural districts—in workhouses.—Relation between the moral and physical well-being of the community.—Effects of years of plenty or of famine on pauperism, crime, and health as shown by returns of workhouses, prisons, lunatic asylums, hospitals, &c.

*Secretaries to the Department,*

JOSEPH LALOR, M.D.,  
Richmond District Lunatic Asylum,  
ROBERT McDONNELL, M.D.,  
14, Lower Pembroke-street.