

equally failed. It should be done by the direct hire of a vast amount of labour and many officials. These required the constant and vigilant supervision of persons directly interested in getting the work well and economically done. It is much to be feared that government would fail in this.

MR. GREER would remind MR. MURLAND that government had succeeded within the last few years in reducing the interest on the public debt. Why not then borrow at the low rate Mr. Galt stated? He quite concurred with MR. MURLAND in thinking that railways should not be leased out, but managed directly by the government. Under such a system the officials and the hands employed would, if promoted according to merit, be quite as energetic and efficient as they are at present.

DR. HANCOCK concurred with MR. MURLAND in reference to the effect on the money-market produced by the creation of so large a quantity of stock.

MR. ROSS and PROFESSOR HOUSTON quoted Adam Smith and John Stuart Mill, in opposition to and in support of the measure respectively.

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

EIGHTEENTH SESSION.—OPENING MEETING.

[Saturday, 26th November, 1864.]

THE Society met at 35, Molesworth-street, at 8½ o'clock, the President, Hon. Judge Longfield, in the chair.

His Excellency The Lord Wodehouse honoured the Society with his presence.

The following Vice-Presidents attended:—Right Hon. the Attorney-General, M.P., the Solicitor-General, Major-General Sir T. Larcom, K.C.B., Edward Barrington, J.P., Sir Robert Kane, Professor Ingram, Jonathan Pim, and James Haughton, J.P.

The Report of the Council was read by Mr. Edward Gibson, Honorary Secretary.

The President delivered the Inaugural Address.

Upon the motion of the Solicitor-General, Judge Longfield left the chair, which was taken by the Right Hon. Thomas O'Hagan, M.P., Attorney-General for Ireland.

The Solicitor-General, in moving "That the marked thanks of the Society are due to Judge Longfield for his very able address, and that he be requested to place the same in the hands of the Secretaries for publication in the Journal of the Society," said,—“I have been requested to propose a resolution to this meeting, which, I am sure, requires very few introductory observations from me; and I think it would be neither becoming, nor is it necessary, that I should attempt to discuss or criticise the very able address which we have heard. It is eminently suggestive, and furnishes an admi-

rable example of the mode in which difficult and delicate social questions may be handled in an assembly like the present. Judge Longfield is known to all of us by his connexion with this Society since its very earliest establishment. He is now, I may say, one of the oldest of the school of political economy which was inaugurated in this country by our late venerated President, which since has had so many followers, who have rallied around, and by their exertions contributed to the success of the Society. And I will say that, so far as the Society has been successful, it owes that success to this, that men find it is a place in which questions of the character we have heard discussed this evening are fully and temperately considered without the introduction of party politics, without the introduction of distorted or irrational views, and without those disturbing elements which a discussion in a popular assembly is often too apt to induce. The resolution which I have been requested to propose, and which I am sure will commend itself to the meeting, is, that the marked thanks of the Society are due to Judge Longfield for his very able address, and that he be requested to place same in the hands of the Secretaries for publication in the Journal of the Society."

The motion was seconded by Mr. John Barrington (Lord Mayor Elect), and passed unanimously.

The Chairman said:—"In putting the resolutions, which you will all accept most cordially, may I be permitted to congratulate the Society on possessing in its new President one of the profoundest thinkers and most accomplished scholars our country has produced in latter days—one who unites with rare abilities and attainments a still rarer simplicity and integrity of intellectual character. On the subjects dealt with in his address it does not become me in this place to offer any judgment. Some of us may adopt Judge Longfield's views—some may hold opinions adverse to them, but we must all concur in thinking it important to the country and the legislature that the momentous questions he has submitted to the consideration of this Society should have been investigated so fully by an intellect so masterly and so thoroughly informed.

Dr. Hancock (Hon. Sec) said, "The resolution which is entrusted to me is one which requires but few words to introduce to this meeting. The opening of our session has been favoured by the presence of the able statesman who has been selected by her Majesty as her representative in Ireland, and our thanks are due to his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant for the honour he has conferred upon us so soon after his arrival amongst us. We are naturally prone to respect the high office which he holds—not alone as an ancient institution in the land, but as an office essential at the present day to the due and wise administration of the numerous and important departments of our local government ; and that respect is enhanced when we find entrusted with that office a nobleman who, though not an Irishman, is so intimately connected with Ireland that he must necessarily take a deep interest in our affairs, and who, in other important offices of the State, has evinced the devotion to business and the statesmanlike capacity which at the present time can be nowhere so well employed as in the wise government and progressive improvement of this important portion of the

empire. In the short time that his Excellency has been in Ireland, in the few remarks that he has made in public, he has evinced a profound knowledge of those subjects which are matter of inquiry in this Society, and a deep interest in all that affects the welfare of Ireland: and such is sufficient to secure for him a cordial reception in this Society. The resolution I propose is—"That the cordial thanks of the Society be given to his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant for honoring the Society with his presence this evening."

Alderman Campbell, J.P., said:—"I feel highly honoured in being called upon to second the resolution which has just been proposed. After the observations which have been made by the learned gentleman who has preceded me it would be unnecessary—as, indeed at this late hour of the evening it might seem presumptuous—on my part to occupy at any length the attention of the meeting. Nor, happily, does the occasion require it. Even without this formal vote of thanks, his Excellency has, doubtless, perceived the gratification and the pride which his presence here this evening has afforded us. He must feel assured that the mere reading of the resolution would suffice to secure its unanimous and grateful adoption. I cannot, however, refrain from expressing the idea that as it is not unfrequently to the labours of the statistician that rulers and statesmen look for the surest lights in governing well and ameliorating the condition of the people, so may we view this gracious and early recognition of our Society by his Excellency as a happy presage of his wish to govern with wisdom, and to improve, to the utmost of his power, the country and the people. I beg to second the resolution."

The Chairman said:—"The resolution requires no advocacy from me. I need not put it to you—you will carry it by acclamation. After such an expression of cordial feeling, no words are wanting to convey to his Excellency your respectful thanks. But bear with me for a moment. Stated seasons in the 'ever-running year' are fraught with sad memories to most of us, who have lived long in a world of change and sorrow; and I cannot forget on this occasion the gracious and kindly presence which often gave dignity to our meetings and encouragement to our endeavours, and which has passed from us, perhaps never to return. We mourn the absence of one whose high faculties commanded the respect of all—whose beneficent acts and gentle words won the gratitude of many, and who bound to himself with deep affection those who had the privilege of coming—as I came for years—within the immediate influence of his genial and noble nature. It is fit that we remember on a night like this the obligations which we owe him, and that we do not estimate more lightly the great honour done us by Lord Wodehouse, because his Excellency in conferring it has been justified by the example of Lord Carlisle. We mourn his loss in common with all our countrymen; but, submitting to the will of Providence, we have reason to rejoice that the Sovereign has sent to succeed him, as her representative amongst us, a nobleman whose coming was anticipated by his reputation for high intelligence and successful statesmanship—who has played a distinguished part in the conduct of great affairs amongst his own people and in foreign nations—who brings to the administration of Ireland the energy and courage of a

vigorous manhood, with the wisdom derived from a wide and ripe experience, and who is already connected with our country by dear and sacred ties. We bid him welcome to a Society with whose pursuits his trained intellect is not unfamiliar, and we recognise in the favour he bestows on us to-night another proof in addition to those which, even during his short sojourn here, he has already significantly given, of his desire to promote the material interests and the moral and social progress of the Irish people."

The resolution was carried with acclamation.

His Excellency then addressed the meeting. He said—"I cannot sufficiently thank this assembly for the more than kind manner in which they have received the resolution which you have adopted. I cannot sufficiently thank those who have proposed this resolution, and your chairman, who has spoken to it, for the terms in which they have expressed themselves towards myself. But I must say that I cannot but feel that my own merits scarcely deserve so high a eulogium as that which the learned Attorney-General has been pleased to pass upon me. All that I can say for myself is, that I have devoted myself earnestly to business, and, I believe, to very dry business; and in that capacity I have some claims to the sympathies of a Society which is devoted to the discussion and the examination of very dry and very useful details. I may also say that I chanced to be a member—not a very constant attendant, I am afraid, but a member of your distinguished sister society, the Statistical Society of London, and as a member of that society, if for no other reason, I should have been sorry to omit the opportunity of visiting your assembly. If I had wanted a precedent I should have found one in the precedent which has been so feelingly alluded to by the Attorney-General, of my distinguished and accomplished predecessor. I know no man who took a deeper interest in questions of social science. I should say that if there were questions which more than others interested his mind, from my personal acquaintance with him, having had the great pleasure and the great honor of his friendship, I should say that there were no questions which more interested his mind than questions of social science; and I am sure that the regret which has been expressed by the Attorney-General and which has been so widely expressed by all classes in this country, for his loss here, will be felt by no society and by no assembly more than by that which I now address. You have heard from the learned judge a most interesting, a most instructive, and a most useful discourse. His merits are known far beyond this country, because in England we have had opportunities of hearing and reading most instructive and useful discourses from him before. He has drawn your attention to some of the most complicated and difficult questions which can engage your attention or that of any other society. I shall only say that he has drawn your attention to them in that temperate, impartial, and fair spirit which becomes a society of this kind. The member of the Society who so kindly seconded the resolution of thanks to me, most justly observed that the labours of statisticians have been of the greatest use to politicians and statesmen. The labours of statisticians supply to statesmen a great body of useful facts, which they can make use of in preparing measures

for the discussion of the Legislature. Besides that, the labours of societies of this kind are exceedingly advantageous as bringing before the public, frequently in a condensed and more convenient shape, statistics which otherwise would lie hidden in large and ponderous blue books—blue books which really are not so disagreeable to read as they are repulsive to look at, but which contain most valuable stores of useful information, especially statistical information, and yet which still sometimes have large heaps of—I will not say rubbish—but of those kinds of leavings which we find at the entrance of mines, and which you have to put aside if you wish to obtain the more valuable ore—a task which sometimes takes rather a longer time to perform than any man engaged in political business can entirely spare, in order to get those diamonds, as I may call them, which sparkle even in the pages of those not very sparkling-looking volumes. These are useful labour of societies of this kind; and I think it is a great matter of congratulation that of late years societies such as this, and kindred societies, have, if I may so say, taken root in this country, and that they have enabled you to have calm, instructive, and useful discussions on topics which, elsewhere, it is very difficult to treat, even with the best intentions, in the same spirit. It has also borne such fruit that, without alluding to names, which in an assembly of this kind it would be invidious to do—I will, however, allude to the name of the gentleman who was so good as to move the resolution expressing the thanks of the meeting to me—but, without mentioning other names, I may say this, that the labours of societies of this kind have already produced many distinguished men who have brought the views of Irishmen before England and other countries, and have done much to raise in the opinion of the world the character of Ireland and of Irishmen for calm and scientific discussion of difficult questions, and for the collection of dry and practical facts; and I may say that, without in any respect disparaging—which I shall never do—the character of Irishmen, it is of great importance to us Englishmen that we should see, as I see around me, men who are devoting themselves to the calm examination and to the collection of facts, by the collection and examination of which you can alone form just theories and just principles. I hail, therefore, the establishment of such societies as a very hopeful sign in the progress, which I hope will continue and become more and more rapid, of the prosperity of this country.”

The meeting then separated.

SECOND MEETING.

[Tuesday, 13th December, 1864.]

The Society met at No. 35, Molesworth-street, Major-General Sir Thomas Larcom, K.C.B., V.P., in the Chair.

Mr. S. M'Curdy Greer read a paper “On the Policy of the Purchase of all the Railways of Great Britain and Ireland by the Government, and their management for the public good after the fashion of the Post Office.”

Professor Cairnes read a paper “On Co-operation in the Slate Quarries in North Wales.”

The Council having recommended for election as corresponding

members, Hon. John O'Shanessy (Ex-Chief Secretary for Victoria), Tara, Hawthorne, near Melbourne, Australia; and William Henry Archer, Esq. (Registrar-General for Victoria), Melbourne, Australia; it was moved by Dr. Hancock, seconded by Mr. Haughton, V.P., and resolved—That the Hon. John O'Shanessy and William Henry Archer, Esq. be elected corresponding members of the Society.

The ballot having been examined, the following gentlemen were declared to be duly elected members of the Society:—W. L. Barrington, Esq.; Arthur P. Cleary, Esq., Barrister-at-law; Alderman John Dillon, Barrister-at-law; John J. Dodd, Esq.; John Fallon, Esq., Barrister-at-law; Thomas J. Haslam, Esq.; John G. Hunter, Esq.; H. P. Jellett, Q.C., Esq.; John H. Kincaid, Esq.; Ferdinand Loughrane, Esq.; Alexander M'Donnell, Esq.; Charles H. Meldon, Esq., Barrister-at-law; John Monroe, Esq., Barrister-at-law; Rev. W. Fleming Stevenson; Thomas Walsh, Esq.; Alfred Webb, Esq.

THIRD MEETING.

[Tuesday, 17th January, 1865.]

The Society met at 35, Molesworth-street, Sir Robert Kane, V.P., in the Chair.

J. Lowry Whittle, Esq., read a paper "On the Patent Laws of the United Kingdom."

Edward Gibson, Esq., read a paper entitled "Railway Reform."

The ballot having been examined, the following gentlemen were declared to be duly elected members of the Society:—Thomas Grace Geoghegan, M.D.; Stanislaus J. Lynch, Esq.; John Norwood, Esq., A.M., Barrister-at-law; Charles H. Teeling, Esq.

FOURTH MEETING.

[Tuesday, 31st January, 1865.]

The Society met at 35, Molesworth-street, Edward Barrington, Esq., J.P., V.P., in the Chair.

A paper by J. J. Murphy, Esq. on "The Effects of increased Spirit Duties," was read.

John Hancock, Esq., J.P., read a paper on "The Policy of Extending the Provisions of the Towns Improvement Act (Ireland), 1854, to the Towns still under the old Paving and Lighting Act, 9 Geo. IV. c. 82."

The ballot having been examined, the following gentlemen were declared to be duly elected members of the Society:—Arthur Barrington, Esq.; James P. Byrne, Esq.; Thomas M. Fay, Esq., Barrister-at-law; William Griffin, Esq., Barrister-at-law; James Daniel Mitchell, Esq.