

socialism. Ireland has been specially favoured in this respect. The interposition of government in what has hitherto been generally regarded as matter of contract and private arrangement is strikingly shown in the Land Act of 1881, and the Labourers Dwellings Act of the following year. It has been again manifested, although in somewhat a different manner, in the Tramways and Public Companies Act of 1883, but it must be confessed with questionable prudence. It seems hard on the heavily burthened ratepayer that he should be expected to guarantee a dividend of 5 per cent. to the shareholders of a private company which, if it really had a good prospect of paying, would assuredly have been undertaken on its merits by some shrewd and enterprising body of capitalists. Naturally, numberless companies will be found willing to undertake any scheme, no matter what its ultimate prospects of success, if a certain return is guaranteed them. Five per cent. will be paid no matter what is earned, and it is needless to say that under such a state of affairs the zealotry and constant vigilance so characteristic of private undertakings will in all likelihood be altogether wanting. These considerations will show that the grand juries, in exhibiting a disinclination to give baronial guarantees to tramway schemes, were only acting with reasonable caution and commendable foresight.

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

THIRTY-SEVENTH SESSION.—FIRST MEETING.

[Tuesday, 27th November, 1883.]

The Society met at the Leinster Lecture Hall, 35 Molesworth Street, Jonathan Pim, Esq., ex-President, in the chair.

Professor Bastable read a paper on "Some Economic Conditions of Industrial Development, with special reference to Ireland."

On behalf of the Council, The Registrar-General proposed—"That the resolution adopted at a meeting of the Society, held on the 27th of June, 1882, altering the time for the election of Officers and Council from June to November, be rescinded, and that in future the Officers and Council for each year shall be elected in June, as provided by the laws of the Society, chap. ii. rule 2."

The motion was seconded by Mr. Molloy, Q.C., and passed unanimously.

The ballot having been examined, the following gentlemen were declared elected members of Council for the ensuing session:—Jas. G. Alcorn, Esq. B.L., Chas. Eason, Jun. Esq., J. J. Shaw, Esq. B.L., W. H. Dodd, Esq. B.L., Professor Bastable, T.C.D., Professor Sigerson, M.D., William J. Hancock, Esq. F.I.A., Richard M. Barrington, Esq. LL.B., Walter R. Crofton, Esq., Murrugh O'Brien, Esq., John H. Edge, Esq. J.P., and A. H. Bates, Esq. M.A.

The ballot having been examined, the following gentlemen were declared duly elected members of the Society:—R. B. Kane, Esq. M.A., R. W. Walsh, Esq. C.E., T. E. Powell, Esq., W. P. Geoghegan, Esq., S. L. Browne, Esq. B.L.

#### SECOND MEETING.

[Tuesday, 18th December, 1883.]

The Society met at the Leinster Lecture Hall, 35 Molesworth Street, H. Dix Hutton, Esq. LL.B., Vice-President, in the chair.

Mr. W. F. Bailey, B.L., Hon. Secretary, read a paper on "Primary Education: with a comparison of the German, Irish, and English Systems."

The ballot having been examined, the following gentlemen were declared duly elected members of the Society:—Hugo J. Nahmer, Esq., and James G. Bolger, Esq.

#### THIRD MEETING.

[Tuesday, 29th January, 1884.]

The Society met at the Leinster Lecture Hall, 35 Molesworth Street, The Right Hon. Lord Monteagle, President, in the chair.

Mr. J. J. Shaw, M.A., read a paper on "The Nationalization of the Land."

The ballot having been examined, the following gentlemen were declared duly elected members of the Society:—A. F. Blood, Esq. B.L., and E. H. Carson, Esq. B.L.

#### FOURTH MEETING.

[Tuesday, 4th March, 1884.]

The Society met at the Leinster Lecture Hall, 35 Molesworth Street, James McDonnell, Esq., Vice-President, in the chair.

Mr. Spencer Harty, C.E., read a paper on "Some Considerations on the Working of the Artizans' Dwellings Acts, as illustrated in the case of the Coombe Area (Dublin)."

The ballot having been examined, the following gentlemen were declared duly elected members of the Society:—Richard O'Shaughnessy, Esq., Dunbar Plunket Barton, Esq. B.L., and Spencer Harty, Esq. C.E.

#### FIFTH MEETING.

[Tuesday, 29th April, 1884.]

The Society met at the Leinster Lecture Hall, 35 Molesworth Street, Sir John Lentaigue, C.B. D.L., Vice-President, in the chair.

The Registrar-General read a paper entitled "Notes on the Statistics of Waste Lands in Ireland."

Mr. Charles Eason, Jun., read a paper on "The Manufactures of the United States."

The ballot having been examined, Richard Bagwell, Esq. J.P. was declared duly elected a member of the Society.

## SIXTH MEETING.

[Tuesday, 20th May, 1884.]

The Society met at the Leinster Lecture Hall, 35 Molesworth Street, The Registrar-General, Vice-President, in the chair.

Dr. Hercules H. McDonnell read a paper on "Statistics of Irish Infirmarys."

Mr. Cherry read a paper on "The Eric Fines of Ancient-Irish Law."

The ballot having been examined, The Hon. Gaston Monsell was declared duly elected a member of the Society.

## SEVENTH MEETING.

[Tuesday, 24th June, 1884.]

The Society met at the Leinster Lecture Hall, 35 Molesworth Street, Sir J. Lentaigne, C. B. D.L., ex-President, in the chair.

Professor Bastable read a paper on "Some Considerations on the proposed Alteration in the Gold Coinage of the United Kingdom."

Mr. W. F. Bailey, B.L., Hon. Secretary, read a paper on "Baronial Guarantees under the Tramways Act, 1883."

The ballot having been examined, the following gentlemen were declared duly elected members of Council for the ensuing session:—  
J. J. Shaw, Esq., Murrough O'Brien, Esq., Charles Eason, Jun. Esq., A. H. Bates, Esq., Professor Bastable, Richard M. Barrington, Esq. LL.B., W. Huston Dodd, Esq., James G. Alcorn, W. J. Hancock, Esq. F.I.A., Professor Sigerson, Walter R. Crofton, Esq., John H. Edge, Esq., W. J. Lawson, Esq.

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