

In *Italy* the general supervision of forests belongs to a special bureau in the Ministry of Agriculture, Industry, and Commerce. The immediate supervision of forests belongs to the provincial Forest Committees, which consist of the prefect of the province, the forest inspector, an engineer nominated by the Minister of Agriculture, and three members nominated by the provincial council. There is a government forest school at Vallambrosa, in Tuscany—a place celebrated by Milton in the *Paradise Lost* for the number of its leaves. The provincial forest committees adopt regulations for the preservation of forests, and decide upon requests for the reduction of wooded areas into cultivated lands.

The forest laws of Italy contain various carefully framed regulations for the encouragement of planting, and the protection of the woods and trees on the lands within forest bounds.\*

#### VI.—*How Forestry should be protected and encouraged in Ireland.*

The first step which should be taken for the protection of timber in Ireland, is to provide against the wholesale destruction of such plantations as we have, a destruction with which we are threatened by the extension of the Land Purchase Acts. Provisions should be introduced into future acts prohibiting the cutting of trees without the permission of the Land Commission, or whatever government department may be entrusted with the duty of supervision. But more than this is required. Special legislation should be devised for the encouragement of planting, especially in those large and numerous districts of the country which now lie waste and useless. In the promised measures for the reform of the local government of the country, care should be taken to give power to the new local bodies to undertake the planting of waste lands, and for acquiring such lands as may be considered suitable and desirable for the cultivation of timber. Supervision over all lands so planted should be given to whatever central body is entrusted with the care of public works and government loans, and that body should also be given authority to suggest and compel the planting of trees, where such work would be for the benefit of the community at large.

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

FORTY-SECOND SESSION.—FIRST MEETING.

[Tuesday, 27th November, 1888.]

The Society met at the Leinster Lecture Hall, 35 Molesworth-street, The President in the chair.

The President (Dr. Grimshaw) delivered his Inaugural Address, entitled "A Statistical Survey of Ireland from 1840 to 1888."

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\* Report of Consul-General Alden (Rome).

A vote of thanks, moved by Mr. James McDonnell, and seconded by Mr. H. Dix Hutton, was carried by acclamation.

The ballot having been examined, Dr. Edgar Flynn was declared elected a member of the Society.

#### SECOND MEETING.

[Tuesday, 18th December, 1888.]

The Society met at the Leinster Lecture Hall, 35 Molesworth-street, The President in the chair.

Mr. Joseph John Murphy read a paper, entitled "A Suggestion on Coinage."

Mr. Murrrough O'Brien read a paper on "Some Recent Statistics of French Rural Economy."

#### THIRD MEETING.

[Tuesday, 22nd January, 1889.]

The Society met at the Leinster Lecture Hall, 35 Molesworth-street, The President in the chair.

Dr. Ingram, S.F.T.C.D., read "A Biographical Memoir of the late W. N. Hancock, LL.D."

A vote of thanks to Dr. Ingram was proposed by Mr. Findlater, seconded by Mr. H. Dix Hutton, and carried by acclamation.

Dr. Edgar Flynn read a paper on "The Geographical Distribution of Irish Intellect."

The ballot having been examined, Messrs. E. Dwyer Gray and Andrew Reid were declared elected members of the Society.

#### FOURTH MEETING.

[Tuesday, 19th February, 1889.]

The Society met at the Leinster Lecture Hall, 35 Molesworth-street, Mr. Wm. Findlater (Vice-President) in the chair.

Mr. George Coffey read a paper on "The Proposed Technical Instruction Bill and the Science and Art Department."

The ballot having been examined, R. E. Matheson, B.L., was declared elected a member of the Society.

#### FIFTH MEETING.

[Tuesday, 30th April, 1889.]

The Society met at the Leinster Lecture Hall, 35 Molesworth-street, The President in the chair.

Mr. R. E. Matheson read a paper on "The Mechanism of Statistics."

The ballot having been examined, Messrs. R. L. Woolcombe, and Wentworth Erck were declared elected members of the Society.

## SIXTH MEETING.

[Tuesday, 21st May, 1889.]

The Society met at the Leinster Lecture Hall, 35 Molesworth-street, The President in the chair.

Dr. Wentworth Erck read a paper on "The Reduction of the Rate of Interest since 1870, with some Remarks as to the Probable Amount of Incumbrances on Irish Land."

The Report of the Barrington Lectures Examinations was read, and the prizes and certificates were distributed by the President.

## SEVENTH MEETING.

[Tuesday, 2nd July, 1889.]

The Society met at the Leinster Lecture Hall, 35 Molesworth-street, Mr. Murrough O'Brien—and later The President—in the chair

The President read a paper on "Child Mortality in Dublin."

Mr. Lawson read Mr. Bailey's paper on "Forestry in Ireland."

The ballot having been examined, Mr. G. de L. Willis was declared elected a member of the Society.

The following gentlemen were declared duly elected members of Council for the ensuing session:—R. M. Barrington, Esq., Charles Eason, jun., Esq., R. R. Cherry, LL.D., E. T. Kennedy (Coll.-Gen.); Wm. Lawson, Esq., J. J. Shaw, Q.C., J. G. Alcorn, Esq., Rev. T. A. Finlay, F.R.U.I., Charles Murphy, Esq., Mr. Commissioner Lynch, R. E. Matheson, Esq., R. J. Newell, Esq.

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