

## APPENDIX.

*Unequal Rates on Electoral Divisions in Ireland.*

“The great difficulty in carrying out the suggestions made—of wholly withdrawing from the (comparatively) richer unions within the distressed districts, is much increased by the system adopted in Ireland of levying the poor-rate upon each electoral division, according to the actual needs and expenditure of such electoral division, instead of upon the whole union as in England. Thus it happens that the poorest parish is the one which is most heavily rated to the poor, and thus in comparatively rich unions districts exist which need help equally with those in unions which are much poorer as a whole. In any future changes in the poor-law in Ireland, it would, I feel persuaded, be a great advantage to assess the whole union, or even the county, equally for the relief of the poor. The difference in the rate collected in the various electoral divisions of the same unions varies in some cases from 6d. to 1s. 6d. or 2s., in others from 10d. to 4s. in the £1, and even in one case from 2s. 6d. to 4s. 6d. in the £1.”—*Extract from Irish Distress and its Remedies*, by James H. Tuke, 1880, 3rd Edition, pp. 80-81.

IV.—*Report of Council at Opening of Thirty-fourth Session.*

[Read 30th November, 1880.]

*Visit of Social Science Congress.*

THE Council joined with the Town Council of Dublin in inviting the Social Science Congress to meet in Dublin in 1881, and the invitation has been accepted.

The Council invite the co-operation of all the residents in Dublin and the neighbourhood, who take an interest in social questions, to enable the Society to secure the preparation of papers and the conducting of researches on all the subjects that it would be desirable to bring before the Congress. If zealously supported, the Council feel that they will be able to secure as successful a meeting of the Congress in 1881 as in 1861.

*Representation of the Society at other Associations.*

The Society was represented at the Statistical Section of the British Association, at Swansea, by Mr. Constantine Molloy, who was chosen as Secretary of the Section. Dr. Ingram (ex-President), and Dr. Hancock, at the invitation of the Executive Committee of the Trades Union Congress, gave addresses at the meeting of the Congress in Dublin in September last.

*Legislation on matters the Society has taken an interest in.**Lunacy Legislation.*

The Lord Chancellor succeeded in carrying one branch of his Neglected Lunatics (Ireland) Bill—namely, the part which gave to

the County Courts a jurisdiction for protecting the person and property of lunatics, somewhat similar to what the Courts have over the persons and property of minors. This is a most important reform, which has been urged on Parliament for some years by the Scotch Lunacy Commissioners, and they succeeded in carrying a similar Act for Scotland (under the name of the Judicial Factor's Act) in the last short session. By these two Acts the Lunacy Law of Ireland and Scotland is now in advance of that of England and Wales.

When the Lord Chancellor has been so successful in one part of his Neglected Lunatics Bill, which the Scotch analogy assisted his lordship in carrying, the Council would strongly urge upon his lordship the importance of carrying the rest of the Bill, which he brought in in 1879 and again in the first session of 1880—it, too, rests largely on a Scotch analogy, as the Scotch are in some branches of the care of lunatics in advance of the arrangements in England. When Parliament has recognised the Scotch precedent as a safe guide in one branch of the subject, there is no reason why it should not recognise it equally in another.

As the Council of this Society took up the matter originally at the request of Lunacy reformers in England, and it was a report of the Charity Organisation Committee of this Society which led to his lordship introducing his Bill, the Council think it their duty to express a strong opinion on the urgency, after the report of the Commissioners of Inquiry as to the increase in the number of Neglected Lunatics in Ireland, of bringing the law as to lunatics in Ireland up to the standard of philanthropic and enlightened care of this afflicted class, which has been for so many years adopted in England and Scotland.

#### *Limitation of Costs Bill.*

In consequence of some facts disclosed in a paper read before the Society in February last—as to the cost of proceedings in ejectments in the Superior Courts, in cases where proceedings might be taken in the Local Courts—Mr. Errington, one of our members, brought in a Bill to meet the grievance, and the Bill passed the House of Commons, but was not fortunate enough to pass the House of Lords.

#### *Summary Jurisdiction Bill.*

The object of extending the principle of the Justices' Clerks Act of 1877 (preventing petty sessions clerks having a pecuniary interest in the amount of fines imposed, and amount of fees on proceedings in the Petty Sessions Court), was brought before the Society on the report of a committee and in a paper read last session. The Trades Union Congress, at Edinburgh in 1879, and again at Dublin in 1880, urged that this wise principle which, they had succeeded in carrying for England in 1877, should be extended to Scotland and to Ireland.

Mr. Errington and Sir Patrick O'Brien brought in a Bill to carry this reform for Ireland, but at too late a period to allow of more than the Act being printed. Their Bill also included the extension of

Metropolis of the System of Common Poor Fund, adopted in the London Metropolis.

Dr. Hancock read a paper on the Law Reforms which have been successfully advocated by the Trades Union Congress, and on the further reforms which they now seek.

Mr. Campbell read a Notice on the Books and Pamphlets presented by the late Sir Thomas Larcom to the Society.

Dr. Hancock read a paper on the Scotch part of the Poor Removal Question.

*Codification and Statute Law Revision.*

By the appointment of the Criminal Code Commissioners, including Ireland, the principle of codification was conceded by Parliament as important. There is no point the Trades Union Congress press with greater urgency than the importance of a Criminal Code, not for indictable offences alone, but for summary jurisdiction with which their affairs are most concerned. This we think a very reasonable demand. The whole law of France was codified by Napoleon eighty years ago. The principal state in America has had for some years a Code of Civil Procedure, and a Code of Criminal Procedure. As a step to a Code, statute law revision, which our Council has been urging for some years, is of great importance.

The Irish work on this subject has, after some delay now been completed in detail; but a further delay has occurred in giving the public the benefit of the results, as there is no officer connected with Parliament charged with the duty of publishing revised statutes. So after all the expense has been incurred, the public are still deprived of the practical benefits of revision for the trifling cost of issuing a single volume of Revised Statutes.

The results of revisions in England were at once secured by the prompt issue of Revised Statutes.

When the differences of the laws of England and Ireland form a grave matter of discussion at the present moment, it is a serious matter, that the results of the Revision of the Irish Statutes should remain so long unpublished.]

*What the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society has effected since its foundation in 1847.*

As the Social Science Congress are meeting in Dublin next October, the Council annex a Memorandum, giving a sketch of what the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society has effected in the thirty-three years of its existence. It was originally drawn at the request of Mr. Pim, when President, and has been brought up to the present time, in the hope that the citizens of Dublin will strengthen the Society to enable it to give the Congress a suitable reception.