

application of the views of Lasalle, who allowed two centuries for the development of complete socialism.

It is well to state distinctly this aspect of the socialist movement, for many persons who would feel highly indignant at being accused of aiding the advance of a socialistic system are doing all in their power to secure the realization of the design. Each legislative intervention is made an argument for fresh extensions of state agency—a movement which, unless carefully watched, will be likely to grow in speed under a more popular suffrage. At all events, if we are to finally adopt socialism, it is more decent to do so consciously and after counting the cost than to stumble into it unawares.

A few words may be added on the double fallacy which underlies the socialistic principle that “all wealth is the result of labour, and therefore that labour should enjoy all wealth.” First, it is untrue that all wealth is the result of (manual) labour, which is evidently what the proposition means. Direction and organisation render the wealth of the world greater, and need reward, as also does the abstinence which accumulates wealth to be used for further production. If the proposition be extended so as to include these important elements, it can give no support to the socialist view. Second, admitting the truth of the first clause of the dogma, the second does not follow, for it is—all wealth is the result of labour, therefore labour (that is the present labourers) should have all wealth. The term “labour” is used in two widely different senses. In the former, it means the sum total of human labour since the origin of the race; in the latter, it means the present body of manual labourers. And yet this obvious fallacy seems to impose on many who are not socialists, and leads them to accept views which they would otherwise reject.

In conclusion, I must apologise for the imperfect nature of this paper, and can only plead as my excuse the great difficulty of presenting in a concise form the many points of interest raised during a three days’ discussion, itself of a very condensed character. I can only express a hope that the members of the society will prefer to examine the report for themselves. It is the duty of all to examine these problems apart from passion or prejudice, and to endeavour to hasten their solution in the manner which seems to them best.

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

THIRTY-EIGHTH SESSION.—FIRST MEETING.

[Tuesday, 2nd December, 1884.]

The Society met at the Leinster Lecture Hall, 35 Molesworth Street, J. K. Ingram, LL.D. S.F.T.C.D., ex-President, in the chair.

The President (Mr. James McDonnell) delivered his Inaugural Address.

It was proposed by the Registrar-General, and seconded by Wm. Findlater, Esq. M.P.: "That the thanks of the Society are due and are hereby given to the President for his Address."

The motion having been put from the chair, was carried unanimously.

The ballot having been examined, George Coffey, Esq. B.L. was declared duly elected a member of the Society.

SECOND MEETING.

[Tuesday, 16th December, 1884.]

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

Mr. Murrough O'Brien read a paper on "A Swiss Land Credit Bank."

The ballot having been examined, H. C. Lyster, Esq. was declared elected a member of the Society.

THIRD MEETING.

[Tuesday, 20th January, 1885.]

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

Mr. J. A. Walker read a paper on "The Cultivation of Tobacco in Ireland."

FOURTH MEETING.

[Tuesday, 24th February, 1885.]

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

Mr. W. F. Bailey, Hon. Sec., read a paper on "Magisterial Reform: being some considerations on the present Voluntary System, and suggestions for the substitution of an Independent Paid Magistracy."

FIFTH MEETING.

[Tuesday, 28th April, 1885.]

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

Mr. Stanislaus J. Lynch read a paper entitled "Suggestions for the Simplification of the Procedure in relation to the Sale of Land in Ireland."

The ballot having been examined, S. J. Lynch, Esq. J.P., was declared elected a member of the Society.

SIXTH MEETING.

[Tuesday, 12th May, 1885.]

The Society met at the Leinster Lecture Hall, 35 Molesworth Street, Mr. Constantine Molloy, Q.C., in the chair.

Hercules H. MacDonnell, M.D., read a paper entitled, "A Review of some of the Subjects in the Report of the Royal Commission on Prisons in Ireland."

SEVENTH MEETING.

[Tuesday, 30th June, 1885.]

The closing meeting of the Society for the Session 1884-85, was held at the Leinster Lecture Hall, 35 Molesworth Street, The President in the chair.

Professor Bastable read a paper entitled "Some Considerations on the Industrial Remuneration Conference, 1885."

The report of the Barrington Lectures Examiners was read, and the prizes and certificates distributed to the candidates.

The ballot having been examined, the following gentlemen were declared duly elected members of Council for the ensuing session :—
Richard M. Barrington, Esq. LL.B., Professor Bastable, T.C.D.,
A. H. Bates, Esq., Charles Eason, Jun. Esq., J. J. Shaw, Esq.,
W. H. Dodd, Esq. Q.C., Murrough O'Brien, Esq., Professor
Sigerson, M.D., James G. Alcorn, Esq., W. J. Lawson, Esq.,
J. H. Edge, Esq. J.P., George Coffey, Esq.
