THE TRUE CURE FOR IRELAND,

The Development of her Industry:

BEING

A LETTER

ADDRESSED TO

The Rt. Hon'ble. Lord John Russell, M.P.,
&c. &c. &c.

BY

The Rev. George Henry Stoddart, A.M.
Hon. Sec. of the United Relief Association, etc. etc.

WITH A NOTICE OF THE

IRISH AMELIORATION SOCIETY,

AS ORGANIZED UPON THE PLAN OF

Mr. Jasper W. Rogers, C.E.

LONDON:

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1847.
My Lord,

The time for any great national improvement is, when there is at least some temporary absence of excitement and irritation—when the propositions may be regarded as springing from no desperate want of any better alternative—and when there is a prospect of their being adopted and put in trial without the distracting alarm that mars the best measures at seasons of intense public suffering. I call upon you, therefore, my Lord, to address yourself, with the least delay possible, to the consideration of the present condition and future prospects of Ireland. A period of calm, and an intermission of her severest woes, give now an opportunity for collected meditation, and quiet consideration of remedies suited to her condition. I cannot look at her prosperity as at all ascertained. There is a temporary cessation of suffering, but I fear it is only temporary. She has passed over breakers that seemed to threaten her utter destruction—she reeled but has not foundered—but, alas, the sweeping violence of a storm which has been brewing for centuries is not over. She is at this moment lying as it were in
the trough of two seas, and huge billows may be seen racing as it were to overtake the devoted ship.

It remains to be seen whether the pilot has tact and nerve enough to carry her through the crisis, and guide the vessel onward, so that these threatening evils do not overtake her. I would presume that he has—the safety of the whole vessel, and of all interested in it, depends upon his having the proper amount of sagacity and resolution;—and all eyes are turned to him to watch how he will avail himself of the interval of respite from extreme suffering.

It is no time to indulge in fanciful theories and high-flown dogmas of political economists; prompt and vigorous actions are instantaneously requisite.

Not only are all classes of the Irish deeply concerned in the course you will adopt—the landlords anxiously waiting to see whether you will protect their property from confiscation—the tenantry whether you will preserve to them the profits of their industry—and the labouring classes looking to the measures of Government with all the dreadful anxiety of death or life being involved in the result; but the English, also, are deeply concerned in the question. If you look on one side, the worshippers of mammon are terror-stricken, lest their whole resources be absorbed in an unprofitable effort to fill up with English bounty a fathomless abyss of destitution: and if you regard those whose hearts are warmed by more generous and purer principles, you will find them anticipating with painful apprehension the results of the ineffectual measures that are in force to meet the aggravated intensity of suffering arising out of Irish misrule.

There is, indeed, for the present no desperate shriek of agony, faction has silenced her discordant outcry—and the wail of suffering is no longer heard in its bitterness—the
genial season has borne with it more than ordinary relief; the good crops supply both present remunerative employment and a store for the future.

The harvest has yet to be gathered in, and through the bounty of a gracious Providence it is an abundant one; but let it not be forgot, that not more than one-fifth of the usual ground has been laid down this year in potatoes, and the augmentation of the corn cultivation is not at all adequate to make up the deficit of the potato crop. Therefore, at no distant date, remedial measures will be requisite to meet this deficit.

With the expiration of this month, the support of about two million persons now receiving relief under the recent act, will cease; most of these must be thrown on the system of out-door relief provided by the New Irish Poor Law.

The severe expedient of driving back from England starving people to the scene of their privations, has been extensively practised, and the numbers of able-bodied labourers in Ireland, ready for work, but not likely to obtain it, will be fearfully augmented.

Some little, indeed, has been done in the encouragement of the Fisheries, twenty or thirty thousand men being additionally engaged in them, and the tide of emigration has removed a considerable number; and these are methods of relief, which, with certain modifications, ought unceasingly to be pursued.

Even what has been done will leave the provision for the remainder of the people, (if proper precautions are taken), a matter of easier accomplishment this year, than it was in the last year; but surely an enlightened government will not be satisfied with a part of its population merely escaping the worst horrors of shipwreck. It must desire to guide on the fortunes of its subjects prosperously,
it will assume the character of originating good, rather than the spiritless part of merely arresting the progress of fearful calamity.

What should we say of a proprietor, who suffered the most valuable soils of his estate to lie uncultivated; the most energetic of his family to pine in idleness and consequent misery and degradation? and why should we judge otherwise of a government? surely that policy must be strangely defective and culpable, which suffers a community to leave much of its valuable land altogether untilled; and a population to be periodically subject to famine. Yet none can deny this to have been the actual result of the misgovernment of Ireland. Is it to continue? certainly not,—and if, my Lord, you will not wield the sceptre of power, so as to carry out its legitimate benefits to the community, it is to be hoped, and it must be expected, that you will transmit it into the hands of those whose heads are clear to perceive what is requisite for the good of so vast a portion of the community, and whose hearts are bold enough at once to carry into effect such remedial measures.

There are two ways in which the amelioration of Ireland might be descanted on, an abstract recurrence to principles, or a proximate dealing with the facts of the case; like the wig in Sterne's story, its retention of curl might be asserted in strong figure, saying, "Plunge it under an ocean, and it will retain its graceful flexure," or by a simple proximate circumstance, saying, "Dip it in a pail of water, it will come out with the curl as good as before."

Now it were easy to set out the true remedy in high stalking language of political economy, saying, 'capital must be poured into the country—the energy of the Inhabitants must be renovated, then plenty and happiness shall
again gladden Erin’s Isle:—but discarding these abstract forms of truth, I prefer to take a simpler course, and state a proximate remedy similar to the elucidation furnished by the pail of water close at hand, and thus to indicate the remedies, whose validity I consider certain. I shall shew that no remote or complicated remedy need be brought in, but that it lies easily within the power of the government to promote the measures that will promptly mitigate, and gradually relieve and remove the sufferings of Ireland.

The day is happily gone by, when the remissness of government can be palliated by specious statements, that the Irish are an idle and an incurably corrupt population. There may be some faults, as there are many virtues, in the Irish character; but for those who have the power to amend them, and to ameliorate their condition, to turn round and vilify the less culpable creatures of their own mis-rule, will no longer screen the faults of those who should have governed them better. What is it, then, that Ireland wants? She needs the developement of her industry. British kindness has generously relieved her in her extremity, but she would be happier, if you can give scope and encouragement to her industry, than if you could keep her for ever in the position of a recipient of charitable bounty.

An admirable plan was devised and submitted last year to the authorities in Ireland, which was free from all the expensive machinery, believed to have swallowed up at least one-fourth of all the millions transmitted by England for the relief of the Irish. The plan was, that the Rate-payers should, by the agency of the Poor-Law Guardians throughout Ireland, give employment to the able-bodied in their vicinity, by apportioning them to aid in cultivating the lands of the tenant farmers and small proprietors, who
have been, without such aid, unable properly to cultivate their lands. The produce would be abundantly increased by the draining, sub-soiling, and spade cultivation proposed—the labourers would receive an adequate remuneration for their labour from the Poor-Law Guardians—and a lien upon the produce would reimburse the Guardians, without any call upon the public purse, beyond the temporary assistance it should furnish in the first instance to the Guardians, upon the security of the produce for repayment.

Here is one grand proposition for producing a vast improvement both to the tenant farmers and the labouring classes, and similar means of developing the industry of the population, might in many other branches be adopted.

I hasten on, however, to open up to your Lordship and to the public another grand proposition for the improvement of Ireland.

An immense field of profitable employment and present remuneration might be at once made available by a proper system of cutting and drying the turf, and converting part of it into charcoal. A definite plan has been submitted by Mr. Jasper Rogers, of Dublin, to the scientific men of England; and, I believe, has received their highest encouragements and most unqualified approbation. This plan, if promptly adopted, would furnish remunerative employment to thousands, immediately after the harvest is over, and will thus enable them to provide for their families through the ensuing winter, while fuel will be more adequately and economically provided. It will, moreover, enable capitalists safely to invest money in an undertaking which will return full ten per cent. upon the employed capital. Charcoal can, through this means, be prepared at about one quarter the usual cost; thus realizing a large profit.
by its preparation, and highly benefitting, both in England and Ireland, all the factories engaged in smelting and working of iron and all other metals, inasmuch as the present inferiority of British iron arises from its being smelted and manufactured by the use of coal, which has sulphur in it, instead of the better method of preparing it with charcoal.

At the same time, a large area of land will be continually reclaimed for cultivation, as the peat is cleared away from the surface. The reclamation of the bog lands of Ireland, merely enunciated as a fact that is desirable, but without shewing how it can be done, has become almost a signal for an incredulous smile. The English are generally ignorant, that the bog lands are for the most part in very elevated positions, thus easily admitting both drainage and clearance; and by the happy concentration of operations that Mr. Rogers’ plan combines, it is clearly demonstrated how this reclamation can be effected, and that it can be done with the most profitable present employment of the labouring classes, and with the highest benefit to the landlords; while, at the same time, the small necessary outlay will be attended with the highest profits which any commercial undertaking can reasonably propose to itself. In addition to all this, the enlightened and generous projector has appended to his plan, and made indivisible from it, a condition, that part of the proceeds shall be employed in ameliorating the condition of the people—he considers the most desirable objects on which to expend the surplus profits, are, improvements in the habitations of the peasantry, the constructing lecture rooms for useful and entertaining information, instruction in cottage economy and agricultural science, including the growth of flax; establishing of loan funds, for lending small sums to the industrious
poor, under the provisions of the Loan Fund Act; and lastly, the establishing Dispensaries for medical relief to the families of the poorer Irish.

As a concomitant to the project, it is anticipated, that, by the termination of the potato truck system, and substituting payment of the labourers with money—by the putting an end to their labour being repaid by the rental of a small piece of land, whereon they raise their sole diet, *potatoes*; a better kind of food will be gradually introduced among them, and they will share in what the English regard as one of the simple necessaries of life—pure wheaten bread, and occasionally partake of animal food, which is found so useful in sustaining the vigour of the human frame. As to a supply of wheaten flour, I entertain a conviction, though I do not now press it, that the government should, in the same manner as the various governments abroad do in their respective dominions, continually keep up in all the remote districts of Ireland, *store houses of grain*, to preclude the subjection of the population to the avaricious and abominable exactions of unprincipled speculators, who have recently made fortunes out of the very misery and starvation of their fellow countrymen; and there might be still further protection to the poorer classes, by imposing a tax upon the exportation from Ireland of the necessaries of life*—the produce of such tax to be applied in supporting the granaries above-mentioned.

Hitherto, indeed, while the potato crop could be relied upon, there might appear no necessity for such granaries

* A return obtained by Mr. Trotter, late Member for West Surrey, gives the following as the quantities of grain respectively imported into Great Britain from Ireland, in the quarter ending 5th July last, viz: Wheat, 39,852 quarters; Barley, 7,577 quarters; Oats, 55,702 quarters; Wheat-meal or Flour, 98,588 cwt.; and Oatmeal, 26,943 cwt.—*Times, August 17.* Query, whether such an exportation, as well as the exportation of Pork, and Porkers innumerable, from a country partially starving, can be justifiable, or should be permitted?
being provided, but now that such fearful suffering has more than once occurred, through the utter failure of the staple food of a whole population, it will, at the bar of public opinion, be judged a highly flagrant dereliction of duty, if adequate precautions are not essayed for the protection of the lives of millions of our fellow subjects. It is perfect folly to be dancing a Will-o’-the-wisp dance, after the abstract principles of political economy, as laid down by Adam Smith, for it ought to be remembered, that he wrote for a country advanced in social position and high civilization, and at every point supplied with the emporiums of provisions, or for people sagacious enough to supply themselves with them, as with all the other products of commerce; whereas in Ireland, to speak of the actual facts to be dealt with now, there are districts of fifty or sixty miles, where no provision-dealers were ever seen; and all at once, while their staple food has failed them, the poor sufferers are left to the tender mercies of diabolical speculators, who have wrung the very life blood out of their unhappy victims, and will, unless government interposes an efficient check, do so again.

But although it is necessary to expose the iniquity of such a laissez faire policy, and to indicate the sufferings that must inevitably arise from the folly of adopting political dogmas, altogether unsuitable to the special case under consideration, I will not now further pursue that subject—and I would turn to a more satisfactory and more pleasing topic; the prospect of success and benefit that such measures as those of the Irish Amelioration Society open to us. The support which the plan has already received from some of the most enlightened philanthropists, some of the most scientific political philosophers, and genuine
patriots of the day, and the high encomiums passed on it by almost the whole of the London Press, leave no room to doubt, that it is one of the best and most likely means of restoring the Irish population to their legitimate position—and I doubt not that your Lordship will willingly aid to carry into effect a measure which cannot fail to stimulate the industrial exertions of the Irish people.

It would appear mere plagiarism were I to embody in my Letter more of the excellent and most praiseworthy propositions of that plan, but I shall subjoin an outline sketch of it, because it so fully enunciates the kind of policy which I am maintaining that the English Government should carry out in Ireland—and as it is an excellent specimen of the kind of encouragement to industry which I affirm would be a greater boon to confer upon Ireland than any continuation even of unbounded expenditure of the public money in relief expedients, as they have been hitherto conducted. As, moreover, this plan comprises in itself the use of peat charcoal as a fertilizer—and thereby the encouragement of the flax cultivation—a cultivation which in all its stages is so highly beneficial, giving employment in its culture to not less than thirty persons per acre—furnishing work not only to the male population, but to women, and even to the children; as again, the manufacture of flax is so profitable to Ireland, which has long been evinced in the Northern districts; and as further, the seed may be so advantageously used in fattening the cattle, and so reproducing immense market profits;—I say, as this plan comprises so many advantages, and is so good an instance of the kind of enterprize which is suited to bring out the resources connected with the manu-
factures, and agricultural wealth of Ireland,—I trust all this will be sufficient excuse to your Lordship for my so pointedly calling your attention to it, and I must trust to the Author’s liberality to excuse my making this public use of his information, without having previously obtained his permission to do so.

I trust, my Lord, I have said enough to point out to your Lordship and to the public the high road to Ireland’s prosperity, and that the subject will receive the earliest and most unbiased consideration of yourself, and of the legislature of the country. By fostering such enterprises, you will prove yourself the true friend of Ireland, and will take the best means to elevate the moral character of the Irish, (while you teach them to depend upon their own exertions,) and will do more to contribute to their permanent relief than could be done by triple the number of millions that England has generously expended for them. I say not this as thinking that the better portion of the English grudge one shilling of the money that your Lordship’s Government have apportioned to the relief of Ireland in her extremity, but from a conviction, that though that action was praiseworthy, a still more meritorious and useful line of policy remains to be followed; viz: to develop the native industry, to stimulate the moral independence of the Irish, and to open out the natural resources of that rich, but hitherto unwisely managed country.

While I address this appeal to your Lordship, and to the British public, let me call upon the Irish landlords and proprietors, as well as the labouring classes, to verify by their conduct the anticipation that I have here held out—that if paths of industry and honest labour are opened to
them, they will redeem, with the highest credit to themselves, the character that wise and good men still assign to them, that they only want scope and a fair field in order to Ireland becoming again the brightest home of honest independence, of civilized refinement, and of happy industry.

With every sentiment of respect, I have the honour to subscribe myself

Your Lordship's obedient humble Servant,

GEORGE HENRY STODDART.

21, Cambridge Terrace, Hyde Park,
August 18, 1847.
APPENDIX.

Objects of the Irish Amelioration Society, as announced by
Mr. Jasper W. Rogers, C.E.—Ridgway, Piccadilly.

EXTRACTS.

The peat-land or bog-land of Ireland, is capable of being converted into a singularly advantageous fuel for general and manufacturing purposes, called peat or turf. This bog extends to about 8,000,000 acres, while the whole of Ireland is but 20,000,000; and it is very generally spread over the entire country, varying from four to forty feet deep; the substratum generally being rich marly soil, possessing, when cleared from the peat, all the advantages desirable for profitable cultivation.

To raise this peat from the surface of the land, and convert it into a fuel and fertilizer for the purposes stated, is the leading object of "The Irish Amelioration Society," so far as a commercial undertaking. Its next, perhaps it should be said, its first, in a political and philanthropic view, is the employment of the over-numerous labouring poor; so as to give them certain food and shelter, and rescue them, even, from the chance of a similar calamity to the late fearful famine.

This grand object being accomplished by the means proposed, the next is to offer them the means of advancing themselves in civilization, and to give the opportunity to raise themselves to social comforts.
The leading operations of the Society, on this score, will be
to erect a building at each station, where the preparation of peat
fuel is to be carried into effect. These buildings will be suffi-
ciently spacious for the extent of the district, and provided with
proper seats, light, and heat. Here the Society will invite the
people to attend any evenings, except Sunday; and a competent
person will read to them useful and instructive works for their
information and entertainment; adding plain popular descriptions
of established improvements in agriculture generally; but par-
ticularly upon the subject of rearing pigs, poultry, rabbits, bees,
and all such occupations as can be carried on with profit and
advantage by the cottier.

According as the cleared land shall become fit for cultivation,
the Society will hope to have it occupied by those who aided in
its reclamation. As patch after patch shall be made ready for
culture, they expect to see the happy homestead of the humble
peasant-farmer, in the place of the now sterile bog; and care
will be taken that a proportionate quantity of each allotment,
or letting, shall be cultivated in grain, and such other crops as
will be most beneficial; so as to wean the peasantry from total
dependence on the potato.

The tenant's interest in his holding, also, will be such as to
stimulate him to exertion; for he will feel that every improve-
ment he makes will contribute to his own advancement, and
feeling this, he may be expected to become the happy and in-
dependent tiller of the soil, in place of being the miserable and
ill-paid labourer. Care will be taken to guard against that evil,
which has tended so much to Ireland's poverty,—the sub-division
of holdings,

Through these means, unhappy Ireland may, ere long, exhibit
thousands of as independent and happy peasantry, as those of
which Germany boasts, or England itself contains.

Such are the objects of the Society, and when the annexed
statement and tables have been read, they will shew that it may
be calculated, that above £100,000. per annum, will arise upon
the "Surplus Fund;" and if this amount be devoted to the advancement and general advantage of the peasantry of Ireland, her regeneration will, with Heaven's permission, be sure, and her ultimate peace and happiness secured—in the only way that it should—by means of her own toil and industry, properly aided and directed.

Statement of Commercial Advantages of the Irish Amelioration Society.—The difficulty attending the preparation of peat as a fuel, &c., by the peasant of Ireland, has hitherto arisen from the want of proper means for drying; and this has been the main cause why it has not been more extensively used. He dries it now in the open air, being therefore dependent upon circumstances not under his control, for its preparation. It is frequently the case, that the labour of days may be washed away, or marred, by a night of heavy rain; and his poverty, it may well be understood, prevents him from obviating the evil by artificial means.

To overcome this otherwise insurmountable difficulty, and thus aid the peasant by providing proper appliances for drying and preparing the peat, and afterwards converting it into charcoal, is the commercial object of the Society.

Peat, when cut into properly shaped sods, and properly dried, can be made into a most desirable fuel for the following purposes:—

1. For general household use.

For all domestic uses; such as brewing, distilling, soap-boiling, &c. &c. &c., for kiln purposes, in drying grain, malt, hops, peas, beans, &c.; in fact, for all purposes where a general heat, spreading widely, is of advantage; this being its peculiar property.

For steam boilers it presents singular benefits, yielding, by its equality of heat, a much greater quantum of steam, from a given surface, than coal; while a boiler fired by it will, from the absence of all sulphureous vapour, last almost double its usual time.

It is evident, that such a fuel for general purposes is highly
desirable: and for household use, particularly amongst the lower classes, its advantages are considerable. In Dublin, the poor pay during winter, for peat or turf prepared, even defectively as it is, at the rate of from 30s. to 35s. per ton, in preference to using coal, say at 25s.; the cause being, that it can be easily lighted, and acts with greater generality on the article to be cooked, than coal. It quickly surrounds the cooking vessel with a general heat, while coal acts principally upon the bottom, and takes a much longer time to ignite. Hence, peat prepares the meals of the poor more quickly and economically than coal.

2. But the conversion of peat into charcoal offers advantages still more striking. An erroneous impression exists, that carbonized peat is so friable and volatile, as to be unsuited for the purposes for which charcoal of wood is generally used; and hence the belief, that it cannot be made available for that grand object to England, the smelting and preparation of iron; but for which it is in fact eminently fitted. Peat-charcoal can be made even more dense than that from wood; its purity is fully equal; and the cost about one-fourth. Its value, therefore, for the production of iron, is almost incalculable, not alone on the score of enabling the iron-master to command the English market, to the exclusion of foreign iron; but that just in proportion to the quantity of peat and peat-charcoal used in the general preparation, will be the stability of iron, and the safety of the public generally; for it is impossible to know when even the best coal-made iron may have become unsound by an over-action of sulphur in its preparation. The value of peat-fuel for making iron, has been long proved on the continent, and England has been behind-hand, merely because of her abundance of coal. Had she felt the slightest want of fuel for her furnaces, she would long since have sought that which the Irish bog can give her so abundantly.

For the manufacture and forging of all description of ironwork, peat-charcoal possesses singularly desirable qualities; the iron is improved by the action of the carbon, and its strength and malleability increased; while the calorific effect of the charcoal
being considerably greater than any smiths' coal, the cost is not more in reality. In fact, inferior iron, forged by peat-charcoal, is more capable of being worked into difficult forms, than superior, forged by coal, and is sounder, and more fitted for resisting concussion; a circumstance invaluable at the present time, when the want of strength and soundness in iron-work upon the railways, and in vessels for sea or river navigation, may cause such fearful loss of life.

For the smelting of other metals also, the advantages of peat-charcoal are nearly equal; for upon each, the action of sulphur from coal, is injurious in a greater or less degree.

3. But there is a further use for peat-charcoal, which will not only make its demand certain and progressive, but will confer on the agricultural interests of England, considerable benefit. It has been proved by unquestionable experiments, commenced some years since at Munich, that carbon, or charcoal, applied as a manure, or fertilizer, produces great advantage to vegetation; and by a succession of trials since, it has been incontestably established, that peat-charcoal is one of the most valuable general fertilizers now known—one that cannot produce injury by over use, while almost the smallest quantity will yield a certain amount of good. It is lasting in its effect, and general in its action; not being confined, like most other fertilizers, to an isolated capability. It supplies to the root in ample abundance, that carbon, of which most vegetables contain from forty to fifty per cent., and to obtain which, they are now left dependent almost solely on the atmosphere.

The Society purpose establishing, in convenient and desirable positions throughout the country, stations for the final drying and preparation of peat, and its conversion into charcoal; having at each, one confidential officer, to be aided by a sufficient number of labouring assistants belonging to the locality. Here, all the necessary appliances will be provided, and the peasantry then invited to cut turf, or peat, according to certain dimensions, either upon the bogs which they may possess the right of using under
their leases, or by agreement with the owners of the bog-land. In this case, the Society will pay a given sum per measure, for all peat brought to their stations in a sufficiently dry state for carriage, and upon the peasant piling it in the drying houses, which will be so arranged that he can do so without difficulty, he will be paid the value at once. Thus a trade of great advantage will be opened for all who possess the power of cutting turf under privilege of their holdings, or otherwise.

Next, the Society will rent or purchase bog-land for their own direct operations. On this the peasantry will be employed, and paid for their work by measure also, the Society providing apparatus of a simple nature for cutting and preserving the peat in any weather sufficiently dry for out-door labour. Here, again, the peasant will be paid and rewarded in proportion to his labour and exertion; and according as the turf shall have been removed from the surface, the substratum will be properly drained and prepared for permanent cultivation.

The import of coal to Ireland, before the introduction of railways, has been estimated at from 2,500,000 to 3,000,000 tons per annum. The present or future average may be assumed at 4,000,000; but taking it to be only 3,000,000, and that Ireland uses but two-thirds of her own fuel in future—not to speak of the English market at all—there will arise a certain demand for 4,000,000 tons of peat; (taking it as only half the calorific value of coal;) and if there be added to this, 2,000,000 tons, to be converted into 500,000 tons of charcoal, (a low estimate, indeed, for the United Kingdom,) it may with safety be calculated that there will be a consumption of 6,000,000 tons of peat annually! the first step of an undertaking, the ultimate extent of which cannot be fairly estimated.

Assuming the cost of peat, in its partially dried state, to be 2s. 6d. per ton, which is above the reality, and that it takes even one-half more to produce one ton of properly dried peat, the cost at each station will be 3s. 9d. per ton. To this is to be added the Society’s revenue, of one shilling per ton; therefore, peat
fuel of the most superior quality may be supplied at 4s. 9d., while the average cost of coal throughout Ireland cannot be estimated at less than 25s. per ton.

Calculating, then, that 6,000,000 tons of peat and charcoal be prepared and sold per annum, which is much below what may be estimated; and that really dry peat be sold at 4s. 9d. per ton, charcoal being charged £1. 1s. per ton, in place of £4., (the present price, exclusive of carriage,) the estimates submitted hereafter, will show the result as regards Income and Expenditure, and the Revenue to be derived.

It has been announced that

The Irish Amelioration Society, is to be established by a Special Act of Parliament.

The Capital is to be One Million, in Shares of £20. each. The first instalment is to be called for, after the Act being obtained, and is to be £1. per Share, and the subsequent payments are to be quarterly, at £1. per Share each quarter; and some of the most leading men in rank and capital have taken the management of this truly national project.

We now proceed to the Estimates:

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**No. 1.**

*Estimate.—Cost of preparing Peat Fuel, the proposed Revenue Charge being added.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Payment to be made to the peasantry for peat to be delivered at Stations for drying, per ton</td>
<td>£0 2 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allowance for loss in drying, and other extra charges, including Patentee's Royalty</td>
<td>0 1 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cost of 1 ton peat fuel fit for sale</td>
<td>£0 3 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Revenue charge upon the above, per ton</td>
<td>0 1 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Price at the station, to the public, per ton</td>
<td>£0 4 0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**No. 2.**

*Estimate.—Cost of preparing Charcoal, adding Revenue Charge in proportion to Peat Fuel.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cost of four tons dried peat to produce one ton of charcoal</td>
<td>£0 15 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Revenue Charge, 4s., other charges, 2s. per ton</td>
<td>0 6 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Price at the station, of charcoal, per ton</td>
<td>£1 1 0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
No. 3.

Estimate.—Charges of Management, per Week, in preparation of one hundred tons Peat Fuel, per Day, at one Station.

Superintendent, 7s. per Day,—per Week ............................ £2 2 0
Labouring Assistants .................................................... 1 4 0
Rent of Station ........................................................... 0 10 0

Total Charge ......................................................... £3 16 0

No. 4.

Estimate.—Annual Income and Expenditure, arising from two hundred Stations, each preparing one hundred tons of Peat per Day.

INCOME.

4,000,000 tons of Peat, per annum, prepared at two hundred stations, yielding a revenue of 1s. per ton, per Estimate, No. 1 .... £200,000
300,000 tons Charcoal, at 4s. per ton revenue. Estimate, No. 2 .... 100,000

Total Income .................................................... £300,000

EXPENDITURE.

Total charges of Management at two hundred stations, per Estimate, No. 3, viz.:—
£3. 16s. 6d. × 52 × 200 £30,520
Board of Management, and Officers, &c., say .......... 10,000
Agents, 2½ per cent. on Sales 36,875
Net overplus ..................................................... 213,605

Total Expenditure ................................................... £300,000

Net Surplus Revenue, Two Hundred and Thirteen Thousand, Six Hundred and Five Pounds per Annum.

And the paid-up capital to produce this net surplus revenue need not exceed £600,000. It will be seen, moreover, that 1s. per ton revenue, to be authorized by the act of parliament, will, even assuming the whole capital of £1,000,000 to be paid up, return nearly 25 per cent. upon the amount; securing, it may be said, the certainty of at least 10 per cent. to the proprietors, and giving them the enviable privilege of being instrumental in the expenditure of perhaps £100,000 yearly, in ameliorating the condition of a people for ages in wretchedness, and raising them from that misery, which has been not alone a disgrace to themselves, but a blot upon the whole British Empire.

There are, in addition to the benefits specified above, two other immense advantages, which will be secured by the operations of the Irish Amelioration Society, these are:—
4. The encouragement which will be given to the culture of flax in Ireland generally; whereas the Northern parts alone now enjoy its advantages.

5. And there is a final advantage, which although of great magnitude, has not been brought into account in estimating the returns to the Society. The value of the land for culture when divested of its peat. It has been shown, that the substratum of all peat-bog possesses elements essential for the most profitable cultivation; and therefore, just in proportion as the operations of the Society extend, yielding to it large returns by every yard of surface cleared, so will lasting advantages accrue, in the possession of most valuable landed property.

No one can contemplate the happy results which must arise to the surplus peasantry of Ireland, by thus providing an asylum for their wretchedness, (earned by their own labour,) without feeling that the measure proposed may be made the groundwork for the regeneration and future permanent good of a people, than whom, it may perhaps be said, there exists not amongst civilized nations one more truly wretched, nor who so much need the aid and direction of those to whom Providence has granted information and the power of doing good.

FINIS.

T. Wilsher, Printer, Manor Street, Chelsea.