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IRISH PROGRESS
DURING THE PAST TEN YEARS,
1881-1890 :

BEING

A Paper read before the Statistical & Social Inquiry Society of Ireland,

TUESDAY, 23rd JUNE, 1891,

BY

THOMAS W. GRIMSHAW, M.A., M.D.

REGISTRAR-GENERAL FOR IRELAND.



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IRISH PROGRESS DURING THE PAST TEN YEARS, 1881-1890.

Syllabus.—I. INTRODUCTORY. II. VITAL STATISTICS—Population, Marriages, Births, Deaths, Emigration. III. VALUATION—Whole of Ireland; Towns of 10,000 Inhabitants and upwards. IV. AGRICULTURE—Extent of Land in use for Agricultural purposes; Extent under Crops, Produce of Crops, Live Stock. V. TRADE AND MANUFACTURES—Linen, Spirits and Beer, Manufactories, Railways. VI. CAPITAL AND LOANS—Banking and Railway Capital, Public Loans. VII. BANKING—Deposits in Joint Stock and in Savings Banks. VIII. TAXATION AND REVENUE—Income Tax, Customs, Local Taxation. IX. POST OFFICE—Letters, etc., delivered, Money and Postal Orders, Savings Banks. X. EDUCATION—Schools and Pupils. XI. POOR RELIEF—Work-house and Outdoor Relief, etc. XII. SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION.

I. INTRODUCTORY.

WE have just come to the end of the decade, 1881-90; the census has been taken, we have available nearly all the information as to progress during the year 1890, which is capable of statistical treatment, and accordingly I purpose, in this paper which I have prepared, to take a survey of the progress Ireland has made during the past ten years, so far as that progress can be measured by statistical standards.

It will be remembered by many that, when I had the honour of occupying the chair of the STATISTICAL AND SOCIAL INQUIRY SOCIETY OF IRELAND as President, on the 27th of November, 1888, my Address took the form of a Statistical Survey of Ireland from 1840 to 1888, and with that Address I printed a series of tables comprising the principal statistics for that period. Since the publication of that Address I have had the columns of the tables written up year by year, and all but a few are now complete to the end of the year 1890.

It is only with the principal figures for the past ten years, extracted from the written up record, I purpose to deal on the present occasion.

Most of us have a very distinct recollection of the depressed state of commerce and agriculture in Ireland at the commencement of the decade. The disastrous failure of the crops in 1879 had inflicted such a blow on the material condition of Ireland that many seemed to think recovery impossible. Without going into particulars as to the statistics of Ireland for 1879 and 1880, which are now ancient history, and which will be found fully set out in my Address of November, 1888, I may state that in every instance in the years 1879, 1880, the figures show the injurious results of the failure of the crops in 1879. It is only those who have carefully gone into

these figures, and who had the experience of the depressing results of the failure of 1879, who can appreciate the comparative unimportance of the failure of the potato crop of 1890, which occurred at the termination of the decade.

I think the way in which the statistics of the past ten years can be most clearly viewed is by dividing the decade into two periods of five years each—1881-85 and 1886-90, striking averages over these five years for each item to be considered, comparing these averages with an average for the ten years, and comparing the first and the last years of the decade with one another.

II. VITAL STATISTICS.

Population.

I shall first deal with the people themselves as represented by the statistics of population, births, marriages, deaths, and emigration.

These details are set out in Tables I. and II.

TABLE I.

SHOWING FOR EACH YEAR, FROM 1881 TO 1890 INCLUSIVE, THE ESTIMATED POPULATION OF IRELAND ; THE NUMBER OF MARRIAGES, BIRTHS AND DEATHS REGISTERED ; THE NUMBER OF EMIGRANTS WHO LEFT IRISH PORTS, AND THE DECREASE IN THE ESTIMATED POPULATION ; WITH AVERAGES FOR EACH OF THE FIVE-YEAR PERIODS, 1881-85, AND 1886-90, AND FOR THE TEN YEARS, 1881-90.

ooo omitted.

Year.	Estimated Population to middle of each year.	Marriages.	Births.	Deaths.	Emigrants.	Decrease in estimated population each year.
1881	5,145	22	126	90	78	58
1882	5,098	22	123	89	89	47
1883	5,015	21	118	96	109	83
1884	4,963	23	119	87	76	52
1885	4,924	21	116	91	62	39
1886	4,889	21	114	87	63	35
1887	4,837	21	112	89	83	52
1888	4,778	20	110	86	79	59
1889	4,731	22	108	83	70	47
1890	4,688	21	105	86	61	43
Average 1881-85	5,029	22	120	91	83	56
Average 1886-90	4,785	21	110	86	71	47
Average 1881-90	4,907	21	115	88	77	51

From Table I. it appears that the estimated population to the middle of the year has fallen from 5,145,000 in 1881 to 4,688,000 in the year 1890, being a decrease of 457,000, or 8.9 per cent. The estimated mean population for the decade was 4,907,000. During the first half of the decade the mean population was 5,029,000, during the second it was 4,785,000, or 244,000 less, the decrease having been continuous throughout the whole period, though not evenly continuous.

In considering the statistics of marriages, births, and deaths, the actual numbers convey but little real information when taken in connection with the fact that the population is decreasing. Therefore, for correct indications on this point, I must refer to the rates as given in Table II. It will be observed that the average mar-

TABLE II.

SHOWING FOR EACH YEAR, FROM 1881 TO 1890, INCLUSIVE, THE RATE PER 1,000 OF THE ESTIMATED POPULATION, REPRESENTED BY THE MARRIAGES, BIRTHS AND DEATHS REGISTERED, AND BY THE NUMBER OF EMIGRANTS RECORDED; WITH THE AVERAGE RATES FOR THE YEARS 1881-85, FOR 1886-90, AND FOR THE DECADE 1881-90, AND THE DECREASE PER CENT. IN THE ESTIMATED POPULATION.

Year.	Rate per 1,000 of estimated population.				Percentage of Decrease in Estimated Population.
	Marriage Rate.	Birth Rate.	Death Rate.	Emigration Rate.	
1881	4.24	24.5	17.5	15.2	1.11
1882	4.32	24.1	17.4	17.5	0.91
1883	4.26	23.6	19.2	21.7	1.63
1884	4.55	24.0	17.6	15.3	1.04
1885	4.30	23.5	18.4	12.6	0.79
1886	4.21	23.3	17.9	12.9	0.71
1887	4.33	23.2	18.3	17.1	1.06
1888	4.20	22.9	18.0	16.5	1.22
1889	4.55	22.8	17.5	14.9	0.98
1890	4.45	22.5	18.4	13.0	0.91
Average 1881-85	4.33	23.9	18.0	16.5	1.11
Average 1886-90	4.35	22.9	18.0	14.9	0.98
Average 1881-90	4.34	23.4	18.0	15.7	1.04

riage rate for the decade was 4.34 per 1,000 of the estimated population. In 1881 the rate, 4.24, was below the average; in 1890, above the average, being 4.45 per 1,000. The average marriage rate

for the first five years of the decade was 4.33, for the second, 4.35, or a little higher. Taken as a test of prosperity, the slight increase of the marriage rate during the second half of the decade would be satisfactory were it not that while there has been a slight increase in the marriage rate, there has not been an increase, but on the contrary there has been a decrease of 1 per 1,000, in the birth rate. This is probably owing to young married people emigrating after marriage, and their first children being born out of Ireland.

The death rate has varied but little during the decade, the average for the period being 18 per 1,000 and this being also the average for each of the halves of the decade.

Emigration has varied considerably during the past ten years. The number of emigrants leaving Ireland in 1883 was 109,000, while in 1890 it was 61,000, being 48,000 or 44.0 per cent. less. There has been a general tendency to decrease in emigration during the decade; the average for the whole period was 77,000 emigrants per annum, or at the rate of 15.7 per 1,000 of the mean population; for the first five years it was 83,000, or at the rate of 16.5 per 1,000, and for the last five years it was 71,000 or at the rate of 14.9 per 1,000, showing a diminution, both absolutely and relatively to the estimated population.

III. VALUATION.

The rateable valuation of Ireland, familiarly known as "Griffith's Valuation," was, as is well known, established on fixed principles as far as land is concerned, and it is only in the matter of buildings that the valuation can vary from year to year. In Table III. the valuation for the whole of Ireland is set out in the first, and that for the principal towns of Ireland in the second column. A comparison of the columns will show that the increased valuation of Ireland is almost altogether due to the growth of towns of 10,000 inhabitants and upwards. The total valuation of Ireland in 1881 was £13,767,000, in 1890 it was £13,998,000, the increase being £231,000. The increase in valuation in the towns of 10,000 inhabitants and upwards was from £2,064,000 to £2,242,000, the difference being £178,000, or only £53,000 short of the total increase of the valuation of Ireland. The average valuation for the first half of the decade for the whole of Ireland was £13,828,000, for the second £13,947,000, being an increase of £119,000; similarly, regarding the towns of 10,000 inhabitants and upwards, in the first five years their average valuation was £2,110,000, in the second £2,201,000 or £91,000 more.

TABLE III.

SHOWING THE TOTAL RATEABLE VALUATION OF IRELAND, AND OF TOWNS OF 10,000 INHABITANTS AND UPWARDS IN IRELAND, FOR EACH YEAR DURING THE DECADE 1881-90, WITH AVERAGES FOR THE QUINQUENNIAL PERIODS 1881-85 AND 1886-90, AND THE DECADE 1881-90.

ooo omitted.

Year.	Rateable Valuation in Pounds.	
	Total of Ireland.	Total of Towns of 10,000 inhabitants and upwards.
1881	13,767	2,064
1882	13,802	2,096
1883	13,833	2,115
1884	13,859	2,131
1885	13,878	2,146
1886	13,898	2,164
1887	13,922	2,182
1888	13,945	2,200
1889	13,970	2,219
1890	13,998	2,242
Average 1881-85	13,828	2,110
Average 1886-90	13,947	2,201
Average 1881-90	13,887	2,156

IV. AGRICULTURE, ETC.

Cereal Crops.—Acreage under Cereal Crops.

Table V. shows the acreage under each kind of cereal crop during the past decade, with the averages for each quinquennium and for the whole period. Taking the total of all cereal crops, it will be observed that the average annual acreage for the decade was 1,618,000; the average acreage for the first five years was 1,682,000, being 64,000 acres, or nearly 4 per cent. above the decennial average; during the last five years it was 1,554,000 acres, being 64,000 acres, or the same amount, below the average. It will be observed that the decrease has been, though small, steady and all but continuous, the only increase being in the year 1888, and it was very small (8,000 acres), and was more than lost in the following year. Looking at each column separately, it will be observed that similar conditions are found in each case as in the total, with the exception of rye,

TABLE IV.—*Land in Use.*

THE TOTAL AREA OF IRELAND IS 20,329,000 STATUTE ACRES.

SHOWING BY STATUTE ACRES UNDER EACH PRINCIPAL HEAD AND IN TOTAL THE AMOUNT OF LAND IN USE IN IRELAND, YEAR BY YEAR, FROM 1881 TO 1890, INCLUSIVE, WITH AVERAGES FOR THE QUINQUENNIAL PERIODS 1881-85 AND 1886-90, AND FOR THE DECENNIMUM 1881-90, TOGETHER WITH SAME PARTICULARS FOR UNUSED LAND.

000 omitted.

Year.	Cereal Crops.	Green Crops.	Flax.	Meadow and Clover.	Grass.	Total Land in use for Agriculture.	Woods and Plantation.	Fallow.	Bog, Waste Mountain, Roads, &c.
1881	1,777	1,270	147	2,001	10,076	15,271	329	21	4,708
1882	1,757	1,249	113	1,962	10,110	15,191	329	21	4,788
1883	1,679	1,230	96	1,932	10,192	15,129	331	25	4,844
1884	1,600	1,221	89	1,963	10,347	15,220	332	24	4,753
1885	1,595	1,219	108	2,035	10,251	15,208	330	19	4,772
1886	1,591	1,221	128	2,094	10,163	15,197	330	17	4,785
1887	1,562	1,229	131	2,144	10,050	15,116	329	13	4,871
1888	1,570	1,235	114	2,222	9,905	15,046	331	16	4,936
1889	1,535	1,220	114	2,187	9,998	15,054	327	13	4,935
1890	1,515	1,214	97	2,094	10,212	15,132	327	15	4,855
Average 1881-85	1,682	1,238	111	1,978	10,195	15,204	330	22	4,773
Average 1886-90	1,554	1,224	117	2,148	10,066	15,109	329	15	4,876
Average 1881-90	1,618	1,231	114	2,063	10,130	15,156	330	18	4,825

TABLE V.—*Extent under Cereal Crops.*

SHOWING THE ACREAGE UNDER CEREAL CROPS IN IRELAND, YEAR BY YEAR FOR EACH CROP FROM 1881 TO 1890, INCLUSIVE, WITH AVERAGE FOR QUINQUENNIAL PERIODS 1881-85 AND 1886-90, AND FOR THE DECENNium 1881-90.

ooo omitted.

Year.	Wheat.	Oats.	Barley.	Bere.*	Rye.	Beans and Pease.	Total Cereals.
1881	154	1,393	210	—	8	12	1,777
1882	153	1,398	187	—	8	11	1,757
1883	95	1,382	184	—	7	11	1,679
1884	68	1,349	167	—	7	9	1,600
1885	71	1,329	179	—	9	7	1,595
1886	69	1,322	182	—	11	7	1,591
1887	67	1,315	162	—	11	7	1,562
1888	99	1,280	171	—	14	6	1,570
1889	90	1,239	186	—	16	4	1,535
1890	92	1,221	182	—	15	5	1,515
Average 1881-85	108	1,370	186	—	8	10	1,682
Average 1886-90	83	1,275	177	—	14	6	1,555
Average 1881-90	96	1,323	181	—	11	8	1,618

* In none of the years did the extent under bere amount to 1,000 acres.

which is a crop apparently gaining in favour with Irish farmers, though its average annual acreage, during the decade, amounted to but 11,000 acres.

In *Wheat*, it is remarkable that while the average for the first five years was higher than that for the decade, and the average for the last five years lower than that for the decade, there has been a marked tendency to increase during the past three years.

In *Oats* there has been little variation during the decade, but a slight tendency to decrease in the extent sown.

In *Barley* there has been a decrease generally, but, as in the case of wheat, a tendency to increase during the last three years.

Bere has ceased to be a crop worth counting.

Rye has already been referred to as the only steadily increasing cereal crop.

Beans and Pease have shown a steady tendency to decrease through the whole decade; but these crops are sown to a considerable extent in two counties only, viz., Antrim and Wexford.

Yield of Cereal Crops.

Turning from the extent under cereal crops to the yield of these crops, we have the results set out in Table VI., from which it will be seen generally that the diminished extent has to a large degree been compensated for by the increased rate of produce, especially during the last two years of the decade, 1889 and 1890, which, taken together, show in every case except *bere* an increased yield per acre from cereals as compared with any other two years in the decade. Contrasting the first five years with the last five years, and these with the average of the ten years, it will be seen that there is but little variation, and it is only during the past two years that a substantial improvement in the cereal crops can be observed.

TABLE VI.—*Yield of Cereal Crops.*

SHOWING THE YIELD PER ACRE OF THE CEREAL CROPS GROWN IN IRELAND, YEAR BY YEAR, FROM 1881 TO 1890, BOTH YEARS INCLUSIVE, WITH THE AVERAGE YIELD FOR THE QUINQUENNIAL PERIODS 1881-85 AND 1886-90, AND FOR THE DECENNium 1881-90.

Year.	Yield in Cwts. per acre.						
	Wheat.	Oats.	Barley.	Bere.	Rye.	Beans.	Pease.
1881	14.9	14.1	15.8	14.5	10.5	16.9	12.6
1882	13.6	13.1	14.7	14.5	10.9	18.3	12.0
1883	13.7	13.6	15.4	14.4	11.4	16.4	12.1
1884	14.6	13.4	16.0	13.7	11.1	15.2	12.6
1885	15.4	13.6	16.1	13.4	12.7	18.0	13.4
1886	14.5	13.9	15.3	13.8	11.6	16.3	14.0
1887	15.2	11.5	12.8	12.5	10.8	11.3	12.4
1888	13.8	13.8	15.8	13.3	13.4	12.6	11.8
1889	16.0	14.2	17.5	13.0	12.9	18.2	12.2
1890	15.3	14.6	16.8	13.5	11.6	23.4	15.7
Average 1881-85	14.4	13.6	15.6	14.1	11.3	16.9	12.5
Average 1886-90	14.9	13.6	15.6	13.2	12.1	16.4	13.2
Average 1881-90	14.7	13.6	15.6	13.7	11.7	16.7	12.9

Green Crops, Flax, and Meadow and Clover.

I shall now discuss the extent and yield of the green crops during the decade upon the same plan as that which I have adopted regarding the cereals; but, for convenience of description and tabulation, I shall also include in this section the particulars regarding

flax, and meadow and clover. The former can scarcely be included under either cereals or green crops, and the latter belongs, so far as it is a crop, to the green crop class. Table VII. sets out for the decade on the adopted plan the acreage under each of the principal green or root crops, all the minor green crops taken collectively, the total area occupied by these, and also the acreage under flax and under meadow and clover. Taking all the green crops together, exclusive of flax, and meadow and clover, it will be observed that there is little variation. The average acreage for the decade was 1,231,000. The highest acreage was in 1881—it was 1,270,000, being 39,000 acres, or only 3.2 per cent. above the average; the lowest in 1890, when it was 1,214,000, being 17,000, or only 1.4 per cent. below the average. The other annual variations in the acreage are small—indeed insignificant—the main feature being a slight but steady tendency to the decrease of regular tillage farming. The difference between the average for the first five years, 1,238,000 acres, and that for the last five years, 1,224,000 acres, is also very slight.

TABLE VII.—*Extent under Green Crops, Flax, Meadow and Clover.*

SHOWING THE ACREAGE UNDER GREEN CROPS, FLAX, AND MEADOW AND CLOVER IN IRELAND, YEAR BY YEAR FOR EACH CROP, FROM 1881 TO 1890, INCLUSIVE, WITH AVERAGES FOR QUINQUENNIAL PERIODS 1881-85 AND 1886-90, AND FOR DECENNIO 1881-90.

ooo omitted.

Year.	Potatoes.	Turnips.	Mangold and Beet.	Other Green Crops.	Total Green Crops.	Flax.	Meadow and Clover:
1881	855	295	45	75	1,270	147	2,001
1882	838	294	36	81	1,249	113	1,962
1883	806	307	38	79	1,230	96	1,932
1884	799	304	34	84	1,221	89	1,963
1885	797	297	37	88	1,219	108	2,035
1886	800	299	37	85	1,221	128	2,094
1887	797	300	42	90	1,229	131	2,144
1888	805	294	46	90	1,235	114	2,222
1889	787	298	44	91	1,220	114	2,187
1890	781	295	46	92	1,214	97	2,094
Average 1881-85	819	299	38	81	1,238	111	1,979
Average 1886-90	794	297	43	90	1,224	117	2,148
Average 1881-90	807	298	41	86	1,231	114	2,064

Potatoes have shown a tendency to decrease in their extent during the decade, but not in so marked a degree as many would have expected, from the uncertainty of the crop, and the general tendency in Ireland to rely less than formerly on this article of food. In 1881, the acreage under potatoes was the highest during the decade, and in 1890 it was the lowest; the difference between 855,000 acres in the former and 781,000 acres in the latter being 74,000, or 8.7 per cent. There were, however, many fluctuations. During the first five years the average was 819,000 acres; during the last five years it was 794,000 acres, showing but slight variation from the average for the decade, which was 807,000 acres.

In the case of *Turnips*, it will be found that the acreage in 1881 and 1890 was exactly the same, namely, 295,000 acres, there being a slight fluctuation from year to year, the average for the decade being 298,000 acres, for the first five years 299,000 acres, and for the last five years, 297,000 acres, the variation being only 1,000 acres on either side of the mean.

Mangold and Beet have shown a slight tendency to increase during the latter half of the decade. The average extent for these crops is small, being only 41,000 acres. For the first five years it was 38,000 acres, for the second 43,000 acres, the increase being probably owing to the tendency to increase of live stock, which subject will be considered further on.

All the other green crops together covered an annual average extent during the decade of 86,000 acres, varying from 92,000 acres in 1890 to 75,000 acres in 1881. The average for the first half of the decade was 81,000, and for the second half 90,000 acres, showing a considerable tendency to increase, which increase is mainly due to an extension of the growth of cabbage for the feeding of live stock.

Flax has shown a general tendency to increase during the decade, although the acreage under this crop was less in 1890 than in any year since 1884. The average extent under flax for the decade was 114,000 acres; for the first five years it was 111,000 acres, and for the second five years 117,000 acres, a gratifying though not very extensive increase in raw material for one of the most important of Irish industries.

Meadow and Clover.—Although I shall have to again refer to the question of the extent under meadow and clover, yet, as these partake to a great extent of the nature of an annual crop, and have to be considered in connection with the subject of produce of the crops, I think it desirable to consider them here. It will be observed that, according to the last column of Table VII., the extent under meadow and clover amounted to the annual average for the decade of 2,064,000 acres. In the year 1881 the extent was 2,001,000, or somewhat under the average; in 1890 it was 2,094,000 acres, or slightly above the average, many variations having taken place in the intermediate years. The largest extent under meadow and clover was attained in the year 1888, when it amounted to 2,222,000 acres, being 158,000 acres, or 7.7 per cent. above the average; the smallest was in 1883, when the extent was 1,932,000, being

132,000 acres, or 6.4 per cent. under the average. It will be observed that the diminutions in extent under green crops, amounting during the decade to 56,000 acres, under cereal crops, to 262,000, and flax 50,000 acres, together making 368,000 acres, are partially compensated for by the increase of 93,000 acres, from which crops of meadow and clover are obtained. Thus there is a net diminution of 275,000 acres in the extent under crops of all kinds. It must, however, be remembered that the meadowed land in some cases produces two crops in the year, and the greater portion is used for grazing for six months in the year.

Dealing with grass collectively, Table VIII. shows the area occupied by meadow and clover, and by pasture, set out in the same form as the other tables. It will be observed that during the decade the land under grass and clover had an annual average of 12,194,000 acres. The average for the first five years of the decade was 12,174,000 acres; in the last five years, 12,214,000 acres, or a little more. This is quite in accord with the increases in mangold and cabbage, showing the tendency to increase in the direction of providing food for cattle and other live stock.

TABLE VIII.

SHOWING THE ACREAGE UNDER MEADOW AND CLOVER AND PASTURE LAND.
ooo omitted.

Year.	Meadow and Clover.	Pasture.	Total Grass Land.
1881	2,001	10,076	12,077
1882	1,962	10,110	12,072
1883	1,932	10,192	12,124
1884	1,963	10,347	12,310
1885	2,035	10,251	12,286
1886	2,094	10,163	12,257
1887	2,144	10,050	12,194
1888	2,222	9,905	12,127
1889	2,187	9,998	12,185
1890	2,094	10,212	12,306
Average 1881-85	1,979	10,195	12,174
Average 1886-90	2,148	10,066	12,214
Average 1881-90	2,064	10,130	12,194

Yield of Green Crops, Flax, and Meadow and Clover.

In Table IX. will be found the yield of the principal root and green crops, flax, and meadow and clover. A glance at the averages at

the foot of the table and the columns above will show how little substantial variation there has been during the decade in the yields of these various crops. There have been very small yields of particular crops in certain years. Thus in potatoes, while the average yield is 3.5 tons per acre for the decade, in 1882 it was only 2.4 tons, and in 1890 only 2.3 tons per acre. In the case of turnips the yield for 1887 was only 9.1 tons per acre, against an average for the ten years, and for the first five years of the decade, of 12.3 tons, the average for the second half of the decade being 12.2 tons per acre; in the same year (1887) mangolds, cabbage, and hay, were all below the average, as was also flax, although this was one of the best potato years on record. As already shown, it was a bad year for all cereals, except wheat. As most persons will remember it was a singularly dry year, the rain-fall being the lowest on record.

TABLE IX.—*Yield of Green Crops, Flax and Hay.*

SHOWING THE YIELD PER ACRE OF THE PRINCIPAL GREEN CROPS, FLAX AND HAY GROWN IN IRELAND, YEAR BY YEAR, FROM 1881-1890, BOTH YEARS INCLUSIVE, WITH THE AVERAGE YIELD FOR THE QUINQUENNIAL PERIODS 1881-85 AND 1886-90, AND FOR THE DECENNIO 1881-90.

Year.	Yield in Tons per Acre.					In stones per Acre.
	Potatoes.	Turnips.	Mangold and Beet.	Cabbage.	Hay.	Flax.
1881	4.0	12.9	13.4	9.8	2.0	30.8
1882	2.4	11.5	11.9	9.3	2.1	29.1
1883	4.3	14.0	13.9	9.5	2.0	30.5
1884	3.8	11.5	12.7	9.2	1.9	28.1
1885	4.0	11.9	13.4	9.4	2.0	30.4
1886	3.3	13.3	13.5	9.7	2.1	29.2
1887	4.5	9.1	10.9	7.4	1.7	18.6
1888	3.1	11.3	12.9	9.1	2.3	29.0
1889	3.6	13.1	14.1	10.2	2.2	27.3
1890	2.3	14.4	14.3	9.4	2.2	33.4
Average 1881-85	3.7	12.3	13.1	9.4	2.0	29.8
Average 1886-90	3.4	12.2	13.1	9.2	2.1	27.5
Average 1881-90	3.5	12.3	13.1	9.3	2.1	28.6

Live Stock.

The great feature in Irish agriculture is the steady progress in the conversion of tillage-farming into stock-farming; this change has

gone on with increasing rapidity during the past decade. Table X. drawn up on the same plan as the tables for tillage, shows how this movement has progressed. It will be observed that under every head there has been an increase of live stock at the end of the decade as compared with the beginning. As the items of live stock cannot be dealt with collectively as in the case of crops, I shall deal with each head separately.

TABLE X.

SHOWING UNDER EACH HEAD THE NUMBER OF LIVE STOCK IN IRELAND FOR EACH YEAR FROM 1881 TO 1890, INCLUSIVE, WITH AVERAGES FOR THE QUINQUENNIAL PERIODS 1881-85 AND 1886-90, AND FOR THE DECENNIAL PERIOD 1881-90.

ooo omitted.

Years.	Horses.	Mules.	Asses.	Cattle.	Sheep.	Pigs.	Goats.	Poultry
1881	548	27	187	3,957	3,256	1,096	266	13,972
1882	539	27	188	3,987	3,072	1,430	263	13,999
1883	534	27	190	4,097	3,219	1,348	263	13,382
1884	534	28	191	4,113	3,245	1,307	254	12,747
1885	547	29	197	4,229	3,478	1,269	264	13,851
1886	549	29	196	4,184	3,366	1,263	266	13,910
1887	557	30	200	4,157	3,378	1,408	272	14,461
1888	565	30	203	4,099	3,627	1,398	294	14,437
1889	574	30	206	4,094	3,789	1,381	304	14,857
1890	585	30	213	4,240	4,323	1,570	327	15,408
Average 1881-85	540	28	191	4,077	3,254	1,290	262	13,590
Average 1886-90	566	30	204	4,155	3,697	1,404	293	14,615
Average 1881-90	553	29	197	4,116	3,475	1,347	277	14,102

Horses.—The average annual number of horses in Ireland for the decade was 553,000. The number in 1881 was 548,000, and in 1890 it was 585,000, being an increase of 37,000 in the ten years. From the year 1881 the number fell until the year 1885, when it showed a tendency to recover, since which year there has been a steady increase from year to year. This is also shown by the averages for each half of the decade. The average for the first five years was 540,000, for the second five years, 566,000. As there is a tendency to decrease in tillage, and, therefore, in the number of horses required for use for agricultural purposes, this increase shows that the regular business of breeding horses for sale has progressed favourably. In mules and in asses there are also increases, but these animals are pro-

bably mainly employed for local purposes, and not reared for sale on any considerable scale as in the case of horses.

Cattle.—In 1881 there were 3,957,000 cattle in Ireland; in 1890 there were 4,240,000, being an increase of 283,000, or 7.2 per cent. In the years 1886 to 1889 there was a slight tendency to decrease, but this was more than compensated for in 1890, when the number of cattle exceeded any on record. The average for the decade was 4,116,000; for the first quinquennium it was 4,077,000; for the second quinquennium 4,155,000, being nearly 80,000 more.

Sheep.—There were 3,256,000 sheep in Ireland in 1881, in the year 1890 the number had increased to 4,323,000, being an increase of 1,067,000, or 32.8 per cent. The average annual number of sheep for the decade was 3,475,000, for the first half of the decade it was 3,254,000, for the second half it was 3,697,000.

Pigs.—Pigs, which with some poultry, represent, in many cases, the only live stock of the cottager, have also increased in numbers during the decade. In 1881 the number of pigs in Ireland was 1,096,000, in 1890 it was 1,570,000, being 474,000, or 43.2 per cent. more, and the highest reached during the period under consideration. The average annual number of pigs for the decade was 1,347,000; for the first quinquennium it was 1,290,000, for the second 1,404,000. It is well known that the number of pigs in the country in any year depends much on the yield of the potato crop of the year before. It may, therefore, be anticipated that there will be a decrease in the number of pigs in Ireland in 1891 as compared with 1890.

Goats.—The goat is not looked upon as an animal of much consequence when estimating the value of live stock. I think the goat is too much neglected as a source of profit. It would appear, however, that this animal is being more appreciated in Ireland, for the number of goats has increased from 266,000 in 1881, to 327,000 in 1890, being at the rate of 22.9 per cent.

Poultry.—I now come to the smallest but most numerous class of live stock—poultry. These reached, in 1881, no less than 13,972,000, and in 1890 they reached the number of 15,408,000, being an increase of 1,436,000, or 10.3 per cent. Although the proportional increase here is not so large as under some of the other heads of live stock, yet it is in itself a very large number. The annual average number of poultry for the decade was 14,102,000; for the first half of the decade it was 13,590,000, for the second half 14,615,000, these figures showing that nearly all the increase has taken place in the past five years.

It is a matter of interest to inquire generally the relation of the grass-consuming live stock to the amount of land under grass. If we take three sheep to be equal to one head of cattle for grazing purposes, and add, therefore, the number representing one-third of the sheep to the cattle, we have the number of head of cattle corresponding with the acreage of grass. It would not be fair to add the beasts of burden—horses, mules, and asses—to the total of grass-consuming animals, as horses are largely fed on other food than grass, so are mules and asses, the latter obtaining much of their food by picking up various articles of vegetation in waste places. Although after-grass is exten-

sively grazed, yet this may be fairly set against such grass and hay as is consumed by horses, etc., and the *bona fide* pasture taken in bulk as representing the area from which the cattle and sheep derive their food. Adding the cattle and sheep together on the principle above indicated, there would be an annual average for the decade of 5,274,000 cattle grazed on an annual average of 10,130,000 acres of pasture (see Table X.), or at the rate of one head of cattle for 1.92 acres of pasture land. During the first five years of the decade there were animals equivalent to 5,162,000 head of cattle grazed on 10,195,000 acres, or at the rate of one beast for every 1.98 acres; during the last half of the decade there were at the rate of 5,387,000 cattle grazed on 10,066,000 acres, or at the rate of one beast for every 1.87 acres, showing a considerable increase of the density of stock. I shall now contrast the first year with the last of the decade. In 1881 there were animals equivalent to 5,042,000 cattle grazing on 10,076,000 acres, being at the rate of one beast to 2.0 acres; in 1890 there were 5,681,000 on 10,212,000 acres, or at the rate of one beast for every 1.8 acres. The difference between 2.0 acres and 1.8 is 0.2, or one-fifth of an acre; so that there is grazing equivalent to the extent of a fifth of one acre more got out of every two acres used for grazing purposes in 1890 than there was in 1881, which is equivalent to the addition of one-tenth, or about 1,000,000 acres to the grazing land of Ireland. Whether the grazing lands of Ireland are now fully stocked with cattle, it is impossible to state. Probably there is no better proof of the improvement in the management of live stock, and the tendency to increased investment of capital in live stock in Ireland, than this increase in the utilization of the grazing lands.

V. TRADE AND MANUFACTURES.

Linen.

From the information obtainable in statistical form (Table XI.) it would appear that the Linen Trade of Ireland for the past decade has not been advancing at the same rate as in former years. I have already shown that the average acreage covered by flax was greater during the second than the first half of the decade, yet that during the last year (1890), there has been a decrease. Measuring the progress of the linen trade by the number of power looms and spindles, I find that while the former have been steadily increasing in number, the latter have tended to remain stationary, therefore we have at the least the satisfaction of knowing that there is not anything of the nature of a decided failure or steady decay in this important industry. To go more into particulars it appears that the number of power looms in Ireland for the purpose of linen manufacture was 21,779 in 1881, and 26,590 in 1890, being an increase of 4,811 or 22.1 per cent. The average number of looms for the first half of the decade (struck on four years only as there was not any information obtainable for the year 1884) was 23,009, for the past five years it was 25,441, being 2,432, or 10.6 per cent. more; the average for the ten years being 24,360, it would thus appear that there has been a steady and considerable increase in the business

of weaving of linen. In 1881 the number of spindles was 879,000, in 1890 it was 861,000, being 18,000 or 2.0 per cent. less. There has, however, been a tendency to recovery during the last two years of the decade. During the first five years of the decade the average annual number of spindles was 874,000, during the last five years it was 842,000, being an average decrease of 32,000; the average for the decade was 858,000, thus the average for the first five years was 16,000 above, and that of the second five years 16,000 below, the decennial average.

TABLE XI.

SHOWING THE NUMBER OF POWER LOOMS AND SPINDLES ENGAGED IN LINEN MANUFACTURE IN IRELAND FOR EACH YEAR DURING THE DECADE 1881-90, WITH AVERAGES FOR THE QUINQUENNIAL PERIODS 1881-85 AND 1886-90, AND FOR THE DECADE 1881-90.

Year.	Power Looms.	Spindles.
1881	21,779	879,000
1882	22,279	875,000
1883	23,677	875,000
1884	—	867,000
1885	24,300	874,000
1886	24,520	874,000
1887	24,758	844,000
1888	24,979	803,000
1889	26,360	827,000
1890	26,590	861,000
Average 1881-85	*23,009	874,000
Average 1886-90	25,441	842,000
Average 1881-90	†24,360	858,000

* For 4 years only—1884 omitted.

† For 9 years only—1884 omitted.

Spirits and Beer.

Whiskey and porter must rank next in importance to the manufacture of linen among Irish industries. Although some fluctuations have occurred from time to time in the amount of these articles manufactured, yet there has been a tolerably steady increase in the amount of both spirits and beer turned out by Irish manufacturers during the past decade.

The number of gallons of spirit distilled during the year 1881, amounted to 9,407,000, in 1890 the amount was 12,989,000 gallons, being an increase of 3,582,000 gallons, or at the rate of 38.1

per cent.; the annual average for the decade was 10,644,000 gallons. During the first half of the decade the annual average was 9,717,000 gallons; during the second half 11,571,000, being 1,854,000, or 19.1 per cent. more.

The increase in the production of porter and beer (generically termed beer) is not so remarkable as in the case of whiskey. The number of barrels of beer brewed in Ireland in 1881 was 1,920,000, in 1890 it was 2,490,000, being 570,000, or 29.7 per cent. more. The annual average for the decade was 2,216,000 barrels. During the first half of the decade the annual average was 2,116,000, for the second half it was 2,316,000, being 200,000, or 9.5 per cent. more.

TABLE XII.

SHOWING THE NUMBER OF GALLONS OF SPIRITS DISTILLED, AND NUMBER OF BARRELS OF BEER (INCLUDING PORTER) BREWED IN IRELAND FOR EACH YEAR DURING THE DECADE 1881-90, WITH AVERAGES FOR THE QUINQUENNIAL PERIODS 1881-85 AND 1886-90, AND FOR THE DECADE 1881-90.

ooo omitted.

Year.	Gallons of Spirits Distilled.	Barrels of Beer brewed.
1881	9,407	1,920
1882	9,080	2,143
1883	9,642	2,100
1884	9,834	2,185
1885	10,621	2,230
1886	10,627	2,150
1887	11,064	2,234
1888	11,357	2,290
1889	11,818	2,417
1890	12,989	2,490
Average 1881-85	9,717	2,116
Average 1886-90	11,571	2,316
Average 1881-90	10,644	2,216

Fisheries.

The want of progress in the development of the Irish fisheries has been a source of regret to everyone who has an interest in the welfare of the country. Table XIII. gives the principal statistics of the Irish fisheries year by year during the decade. It will be observed that during the first half of the decade there was a steady decline in

the number of boats and hands employed in the deep sea and coast fisheries of Ireland. The boats employed fell in number from 6,458 to 5,667 during the years 1881-85, and during the same period the hands employed fell from 24,528 to 21,491. In 1886 a tendency to increase appeared, which seemed to continue up to the year 1889, but in 1890 a falling off has again taken place. It will be observed that the annual averages for the first and second halves of the decade show but little difference from one another, or from the average for the ten years. In fact, fishing appears to be the one Irish industry which does not make any material progress.

TABLE XIII.

SHOWING THE NUMBER OF MEN AND BOYS, VESSELS AND BOATS, EMPLOYED IN THE DEEP SEA AND COAST FISHERIES OF IRELAND FOR EACH YEAR DURING THE DECADE 1881-90, WITH AVERAGES FOR THE QUINQUENNIAL PERIODS 1881-85 AND 1886-90, AND THE DECADE 1881-90.

Year.	Vessels and Boats.	Men and Boys.
1881	6,458	24,528
1882	6,089	22,391
1883	5,866	21,814
1884	5,759	21,696
1885	5,667	21,491
1886	5,683	21,482
1887	5,865	21,750
1888	5,868	22,535
1889	5,944	23,160
1890	5,655	21,987
Average 1881-85	5,968	22,384
Average 1886-90	5,803	22,183
Average 1881-90	5,885	22,283

Railway Traffic.

Probably there are not any better tests of the progress of a community than its railway traffic statistics. The statistics of Irish railways during the past decade are of an encouraging character. The principal are shown in Table XIV. The revised figures for 1890 are not yet available, so in some cases unrevised, and in other cases, estimated numbers are used, but the information available is sufficiently accurate to permit of its being stated that the figures for 1890 are practically correct.

TABLE XIV.

SHOWING THE LENGTH OF LINES OPEN, THE NUMBER OF PASSENGERS CARRIED, AND THE AMOUNT OF RECEIPTS OF THE RAILWAYS IN IRELAND DURING EACH YEAR OF THE DECADE 1881-90, WITH AVERAGES FOR THE QUINQUENNIAL PERIODS 1881-85 AND 1886-90, AND FOR THE DECADE 1881-90.

Year.	Miles of Line open.	No. of Passengers.	Receipts in £.			
			Passengers and Mails.	Goods.	Total.	Average per mile.
1881	2,441	ooo omitted 17,665	ooo omitted 1,425	ooo omitted 1,176	ooo omitted 2,601	1,066
1882	2,465	18,747	1,488	1,285	2,773	1,125
1883	2,502	19,308	1,519	1,297	2,816	1,125
1884	2,525	19,577	1,514	1,272	2,786	1,103
1885	2,572	19,123	1,510	1,249	2,759	1,073
1886	2,615	18,640	1,481	1,270	2,751	1,052
1887	2,620	19,252	1,501	1,279	2,780	1,061
1888	2,620	19,382	1,532	1,298	2,830	1,080
1889	2,643	20,293	1,592	1,369	2,961	1,120
1890	*2,667	†20,978	†1,646	†1,415	*3,061	1,148
Average 1881-85	2,501	18,884	1,491	1,256	2,747	1,098
Average 1886-90	2,633	19,709	1,550	1,326	2,877	1,092
Average 1881-90	2,567	19,297	1,521	1,291	2,812	1,095

* For 52 weeks, according to the weekly returns of the Registrar-General, furnished by the various railways.

† Estimated.

The first column shows a steady increase in the mileage of Irish railways from 2,441 in 1881, to 2,667 in 1890, being an increase of 226 miles. The increase in passengers was not so steady during the decade, for although the number rose from 17,665,000 in 1881, to 20,978,000 in 1890, there were appreciable decreases in the years 1885 and 1886, as compared with the year preceding each. The increase of 1890 over 1881 amounted to 3,313,000, or 18.8 per cent. The average annual number of passengers for the first half of the decade was 18,884,000, for the second half it was 19,709,000, or in round numbers nearly a million a year more. As might be expected, the receipts for passenger and mail traffic increased in similar proportions, as also did those for goods with similar fluctuations in the amounts at the dates corresponding with the temporary diminution of passenger traffic. The total receipts show an increase from

£2,601,000 in 1881 to £3,061,000 in 1890, being to the amount of £460,000, or 17.7 per cent. The average annual receipts for the first half of the decade were £2,747,000, for the second half £2,877,000, being £130,000, or 4.7 per cent. more. The receipts per mile show a corresponding increase from £1,066 in 1881 to £1,148 in 1890, being an increased earning per mile of £82, or 7.7 per cent., so that viewed from every point, the increased prosperity of the Irish railways has been well marked, especially during the last two years of the decade.

Shipping.

The shipping trade of Ireland as measured by the tonnage of vessels entered and cleared at Irish ports (Table XV.), shows but little variation during the past ten years. No matter how the question is

TABLE XV.

SHOWING THE TONNAGE OF VESSELS ENTERED AND CLEARED AT IRISH PORTS IN THE FOREIGN TRADE AND COASTING TRADE, RESPECTIVELY, EACH YEAR FROM THE YEAR 1881 TO THE YEAR 1890, INCLUSIVE, WITH AVERAGES FOR THE QUINQUENNIAL PERIODS 1881-85 AND 1886-90, AND FOR THE DECENNIAL PERIOD 1881-90.

ooo omitted.

Year.	Entered.		Cleared.		Totals.		General Total.
	Foreign Trade, Cargoes and Ballast.	Coasting Trade, Cargoes only.	Foreign Trade, Cargoes and Ballast.	Coasting Trade, Cargoes only.	Total Entered.	Total Cleared.	
1881	900	5,300	500	4,100	6,200	4,600	10,800
1882	800	5,300	300	4,100	6,100	4,400	10,500
1883	900	5,300	300	4,000	6,200	4,300	10,500
1884	800	5,300	300	4,000	6,100	4,300	10,400
1885	900	5,200	300	3,900	6,100	4,200	10,300
1886	700	5,200	300	3,900	5,900	4,200	10,100
1887	900	5,200	300	3,800	6,100	4,100	10,200
1888	800	5,000	400	3,800	5,800	4,200	10,000
1889	900	5,100	400	3,800	6,000	4,200	10,200
1890	1,009	5,187	317	3,957	6,196	4,274	10,470
Average 1881-85	860	5,280	340	4,020	6,140	4,360	10,500
Average 1886-90	862	5,138	343	3,851	6,000	4,194	10,194
Average 1881-90	861	5,209	342	3,935	6,070	4,277	10,347

viewed, whether regarding foreign or coasting trade, the total tonnage of vessels entered and cleared, or the total of all these which shows the entire volume of the shipping trade of Ireland, there is but little alteration. There have been slight fluctuations from time to time, a tendency to a progressive decrease from the beginning of the decade, until two years ago, since when there has been a tendency to increase. It is scarcely necessary to analyse the figures closely, as a glance at the columns will show that the proportional variation is small.

VI. CAPITAL AND LOANS.

The subjects to be dealt with under this head are, railway and banking capital, government stock and public loans. There are many other subjects which might be brought under this head, such as the capital invested in various joint stock undertakings, through the many limited liability companies and the many loans advanced for local purposes by way of local stocks, etc. ; but information regarding these is difficult to collect, and if collected, would be difficult to deal with, therefore certain selected general headings are given. Unfortunately at this period of the year all the necessary information for the year 1890 is not available ; consequently in the case of banking and railway capital the figures for the year 1889 are again used for 1890. The banking capital has not, I think, varied ; the railway capital has, I think, somewhat increased. A reference to Table XVI. shows the variations which have taken place in these items during the decade. Banking capital is somewhat larger at the end than at the beginning of the decade. It amounted to £6,954,000 in the year 1881, and to £7,190,000 towards the end of the decade, being an increase of £236,000, or 3.4 per cent. The increase is not much. It will be observed also that the averages for the first half and second half of the decade were much the same, namely, £7,038,000 and £7,004,000 respectively. The remarkable feature is, that in the year 1883 the banking capital amounted to £7,367,000, being £177,000 more than the estimated amount for 1890, and £346,000 above the average of the decade. This is owing to the presence of the capital of the Munster Bank, which, having failed, reduced the total banking capital of Ireland during the next two years, 1884 and 1885, since which time the capital has been steadily rising.

Railway capital shows a steady increase throughout the decade. In 1881 there was £34,272,000 invested in Irish railways, in 1890 over £36,182,000, being an increase of £1,910,000, or nearly two million of pounds, or at the rate of 5.5 per cent. During the first half of the decade the average was £35,206,000, during the second £36,085,000, being £879,000, or 2.5 per cent. more. While railway capital has been increasing, the investments in government stock have been diminishing. For on the 31st December, 1881, the investments in government and India stock transferable at the Bank of Ireland amounted to £31,611,000, while in 1890 the amount fell to £26,610,000, being a decrease of £5,001,000, or 15.8 per cent. No doubt part of this decrease is owing to the reduction of the

national debt, and part owing to the fact that reduced interest directed capital towards other investments. The increase in railway and banking capital would account for a certain amount of the capital withdrawn from government stocks held in Ireland.

TABLE XVI.

SHOWING THE AMOUNT OF CAPITAL INVESTED IN CERTAIN STOCKS, AND OF LOANS ISSUED FOR PUBLIC PURPOSES IN IRELAND EACH YEAR DURING THE DECADE 1881-90, WITH AVERAGES FOR THE QUINQUENNIAL PERIODS 1881-85 AND 1886-90, AND FOR THE DECADE 1881-90.

ooo omitted.

Year.	Banking Capital paid up.	Railway Capital paid up and Loans.	Govern- ment Stock held in Ireland.	Public Loans by			Total.
				Com- missioners of Public Works (Ireland).	Public Works Loan Commis- sion.	Irish Land Commis- sion.	
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1881	6,954	34,272	31,611	945	6	11	962
1882	6,984	34,963	31,804	591	7	65	663
1883	7,367	35,444	30,942	690	8	111	809
1884	7,204	35,754	30,537	776	11	105	892
1885	6,679	35,598	29,689	721	8	147	876
1886	6,872	35,979	30,080	664	3	876	1,543
1887	6,879	36,117	29,839	715	4	1,430	2,149
1888	6,891	35,965	28,669	557	nil.	1,535	2,092
1889	7,190	36,182	27,898	477	nil.	1,138	1,615
1890	*7,190	*36,182	26,610	684	nil.	1,112	1,796
Average 1881-85	7,038	35,206	30,917	745	8	88	841
Average 1886-90	7,004	36,085	28,619	619	2	1,218	1,839
Average 1881-90	7,021	35,646	29,768	682	5	653	1,340

* The 1889 figures are adopted in these cases, those for 1890 not being yet available.

Public loans are entered in the table under three heads—those granted by the Public Works Loan Commissioners, which have ceased during the past few years, those granted by the Loan Department, Irish Board of Works, and those by the Irish Land Commission. It is scarcely necessary to analyse these separately. It will be observed that during the first half of the decade the advances amounted to an average of £841,000 per annum, while in the latter half of the decade they amounted to an annual average of £1,839,000, or more

than double. This was mainly owing to the operations of the Irish Land Commissioners in the administration of the Land Purchase Acts.

VII. BANKING DEPOSITS, ETC.

The progress of banking and the accumulations of savings, are shown in Table XVII., for the 31st of December in each year. The

TABLE XVII.

SHOWING THE AMOUNT OF CASH BALANCES AND DEPOSITS IN JOINT-STOCK BANKS, IN POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANKS, IN TRUSTEE SAVINGS BANKS, AND IN THE TWO LATTER COMBINED, IN EACH YEAR FROM 1881 TO 1890, INCLUSIVE, WITH AVERAGES FOR THE QUINQUENNIAL PERIODS 1881-85 AND 1886-90, AND FOR THE DECENNIAL PERIOD 1881-90.

ooo omitted.

Year.	Deposits in Joint Stock Banks	Deposits in Post Office Savings Banks.	Deposits in Trustees Savings Banks.	Deposits in Post Office and Trustee Savings Banks combined.
	£	£	£	£
1881	30,161	1,723	2,042	3,765
1882	32,746	1,925	2,078	4,003
1883	31,340	2,052	2,060	4,112
1884	30,627	2,224	2,097	4,321
1885	29,370	2,438	1,981	4,419
1886	30,172	2,703	2,007	4,710
1887	29,771	2,932	2,043	4,975
1888	30,979	3,239	2,029	5,268
1889	32,968	3,462	2,042	5,504
1890	33,325	3,723	1,973	5,696
Average 1881-85	30,849	2,072	2,052	4,124
Average 1886-90	31,443	3,212	2,019	5,231
Average 1881-90	31,146	2,642	2,035	4,677

first column of this table deals with the cash balances and deposits in joint-stock banks, which may be considered as the floating capital of Irish traders, agriculturists, etc. The latter columns relate to deposits in savings banks, and may be considered as the statistics of savings of small sums. In the year 1881 the balances in the joint-stock banks stood at £30,161,000, to rise by the considerable sum of about two and a half millions to £32,746,000 in the following year. This sum, however, fell off until the year 1885, when

it stood at £29,370,000, the lowest sum during the decade. In the following year, 1886, a rise took place, which was followed by a slight check in 1887; but since then there has been a continuous increase, and in 1890 the sum amounted to £33,325,000, being the largest sum on record, and exceeding by £3,164,000, or 10.5 per cent., the amount in 1881. During the first five years of the decade the annual average of the joint-stock bank deposits and cash balances was £30,849,000. During the last five years it was £31,443,000, the average for the decade being £31,146,000. The balances in savings banks are of two kinds, those in post-offices and those in trustees' banks. The deposits in the post-office banks have steadily increased. The same tendency of the deposits in the trustee savings banks to decrease or remain stationary which has been observed since the establishment of the post-office savings bank, has continued throughout the decade 1881-90. A correct conclusion as to the progress of small savings in Ireland is best arrived at by adding together the deposits in both classes of savings banks, as shown year by year in the last column of the table. From this column we find that the savings bank deposits, which in 1881 amounted to £3,765,000, increased until, in 1890, they reached the sum of £5,696,000, the highest on record, and £1,931,000, or 51.3 per cent. more than in 1881. The annual average for the decade was £4,677,000; for the first half of the decade it was £4,124,000, or £553,000 below the average of the decade; during the second half of the period the annual average was £5,231,000, or £554,000 above the average of the ten years, and £1,107,000 above the average of the first five years.

VIII. TAXATION AND REVENUE.

In Table XVIII. some of the principal items of taxation and revenue are set out for the first nine years of the decade. The figures for the last year (1890) are estimated in all cases, except the customs, by repeating the figures for the year 1889, which is believed to be more correct than striking an average over a series of years where there is an increasing or decreasing tendency in the figures. These statistics are not meant to show the amount of imperial revenue derived from Irish sources, or the incidence of taxation, imperial or local, but as general measures of progress. In the case of the assessment to property and income tax, the variations are so slight as to be scarcely worthy of note, there being but little departure during the decade from the average assessment of £26,428,000. The average for the second half of the decade is slightly less than that for the first, being respectively £26,155,000 and £26,701,000, (the year 1890 being taken as the same as 1889, although probably it was a little more), thus showing a decrease of £546,000, or only 2.0 per cent. The customs, however, show a considerable increase. The amount of customs revenue in 1881 was £1,963,000, in 1890 it was £2,102,000, being an increase of £139,000, or 7.1 per cent., showing increased consumption of dutiable articles, which means more expensive living, and, presumably, an

ability to voluntarily pay a greater amount of indirect taxation. The variations in local taxation, as shown by the table, are of a slightly fluctuating character, but, so far as they go, tend to show that the ability to meet local expenses is fully maintained throughout the country.

TABLE XVIII.

SHOWING THE AMOUNT OF PROPERTY ASSESSED TO INCOME TAX, THE GROSS CUSTOMS REVENUE, THE AMOUNT OF GRAND JURY PRESENTMENTS, AND OTHER FORMS OF LOCAL TAXATION FOR EACH YEAR OF THE DECADE 1881-90, WITH AVERAGES FOR THE QUINQUENNIAL PERIODS 1881-85 AND 1886-90, AND FOR THE DECADE 1881-90. ESTIMATES ARE USED IN A FEW CASES.

ooo omitted.

Year.	Property and Income Tax.	Customs.	Grand Jury Presentments.		Local Taxation			
	Annual Value of Property and Profits Assessed.	Gross Amount Draw-backs, &c. Deducted	Gross Amount	New Roads, Bridges, and Repairs.	Rates on Real Property.	Tolls, Fees, Stamps, &c.	Other Receipts.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1881	26,467	1,963	1,218	633	2,676	489	226	3,391
1882	26,756	1,982	1,276	637	2,828	456	251	3,535
1883	27,062	1,952	1,330	649	2,906	466	406	3,778
1884	26,697	2,034	1,349	685	2,956	465	368	3,789
1885	26,523	1,943	1,301	673	2,868	464	289	3,621
1886	26,065	2,083	1,296	675	2,797	448	248	3,493
1887	26,028	2,010	1,284	658	2,834	448	258	3,540
1888	26,031	2,038	1,303	638	2,873	446	256	3,575
1889	26,325	2,108	1,322	655	2,958	448	257	3,663
1890	*26,325	2,102	*1,322	*655	*2,958	*448	*257	*3,663
Average 1881-85	26,701	1,975	1,295	655	2,847	468	308	3,623
Average 1886-90	26,155	2,068	1,305	656	2,884	448	255	3,587
Average 1881-90	26,428	2,022	1,300	656	2,865	458	282	3,605

* The 1889 figures are adopted in these cases, those for 1890 not being yet available.

IX. POST OFFICE.

The post-office department is so many-sided in its relations to commercial and domestic life, that its statistics may be used as tests of progress in a great many directions. Many of the critics

of this great department forget the inestimable benefit it has conferred, is conferring, and the additional benefits which it is almost certain to confer in future. It is the great means of communication, the great circulator of literature, an extensive carrier, and extensive banking establishment. There is probably not any single institution in the world which does so much to promote education and circulation in such a varied manner as the post-office department. Under these circumstances the progress in post-office business may be employed as a useful test of the progress of the nation. Applying this principle to Ireland, we have Table XIX.

Taking first the ordinary communications which pass through the post, we find that in the year 1881 the number of letters delivered in Ireland amounted to 82,238,000; in 1890 the number was 99,859,000, or very close to the round one hundred millions, being an increase of 17,621,000, or at the rate of 21.4 per cent. The increase was continuous throughout the decade. The average for the first five years was 87,035,000, for the second, 95,252,000, or 8,217,000 more; the average for the decade being 91,143,000. The increase in post cards delivered was quite as remarkable. The number in 1881 was 6,426,000; in 1890 it was 10,665,000, being 4,239,000 more, or an increase at the rate of 66.0 per cent.

In book packets and circulars the increase has been still greater, the number having risen from 14,164,000 at the beginning to 24,545,000 at the end of the decade, the increase being 10,381,000, or 73.3 per cent.

An actual, though small diminution has taken place in the number of newspapers delivered. The number in 1881 was 16,660,000, and in 1890 it amounted to 16,591,000, being 69,000 less. The decrease is an insignificant amount in the whole number. It seems to show that the circulation of newspapers by post has reached its limit in Ireland. This is probably owing to the increase in the conveyance of newspapers in parcels, and their local distribution by hand. Telegrams have doubled in their number during the decade. The number forwarded in 1881 was 1,862,000; in 1890 the number was 3,634,000, or almost exactly double. It is remarkable that between the years 1883 and 1884 there was a decrease in the number of telegrams forwarded.

The remaining post office statistics in Table XIX. represent what may be called the commercial side of the business of the department.

The value of money orders issued in 1881 was £1,274,000; in 1890 it was £1,360,000, or £86,000 more. The amount paid was, in 1881 £1,729,000, being £455,000 more than the amount issued; the excess probably represents savings forwarded by colonists to their friends in Ireland. In 1890 the amount paid was £2,256,000, or £896,000 more paid than issued, being nearly double the issues in 1881. The increase between 1881 and 1890 in the value of money orders issued was £86,000, in the value paid it was £527,000. It will be observed that for the years 1881-85 there was a tendency to decrease in the value of money orders issued. This tendency ceased in 1886, and there has been a steady increase ever since. The average value of money orders issued during the first half of the

SHOWING THE AMOUNT OF BUSINESS TRANSACTED BY THE POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT IN IRELAND AS REGARDS ITS PRINCIPAL ITEMS OF BUSINESS FOR EACH YEAR DURING THE DECADE 1881-90, WITH AVERAGES FOR THE QUINQUENNIAL PERIODS 1881-85 AND 1886-90, AND FOR THE DECADE 1881-90.

000 omitted.

Year.	Letters delivered.	Post Cards delivered.	Book Packets and Circulars.	Newspapers delivered.	Telegrams forwarded.	Money Orders, Amount in £.		Postal Orders Amount in £.		Savings Banks in £.	
						Issued.	Paid.	Issued.	Paid.	Deposits.	Withdrawals.
1881	82,238	6,426	14,164	16,660	1,862	1,274	1,729	90	94	674	545
1882	86,479	7,231	14,597	16,205	1,919	1,264	2,074	152	159	753	594
1883	87,690	7,625	13,893	16,028	1,937	1,253	2,193	218	224	744	665
1884	89,067	7,864	16,518	16,108	1,895	1,211	2,104	333	320	835	714
1885	89,700	8,100	17,800	16,400	2,224	1,135	2,009	484	461	933	775
1886	90,900	8,400	18,200	16,400	2,817	1,178	1,994	588	571	1,029	825
1887	93,200	8,700	19,000	15,800	3,048	1,223	2,065	669	641	1,060	897
1888	95,500	9,300	19,700	16,000	3,203	1,318	2,137	962	735	1,040	801
1889	96,800	9,800	21,600	16,000	3,371	1,336	2,162	825	807	1,018	852
1890	99,859	10,665	24,545	16,591	3,634	1,360	2,256	884	880	1,072	873
Average 1881-85	87,035	7,449	15,394	16,280	1,967	1,227	2,022	255	252	788	659
Average 1886-90	95,252	9,373	20,609	16,158	3,215	1,283	2,123	786	727	1,045	850
Average 1881-90	91,143	8,411	18,002	16,219	2,591	1,255	2,072	520	489	916	754

decade was £1,227,000, as compared with an average of £1,283,000 in the last half of the decade.

A similar tendency to decrease in the amount of money orders paid is observed in the years 1884, 1885, and 1886. A tendency to recover is shown in 1887, and there has been an increase ever since. The greatly increased use of postal orders is remarkable. The value of these orders issued in 1881 was £90,000; in 1890, £884,000, or nearly ten times the amount. It is probable that the excess of value of postal orders issued over those paid represents money transferred from Ireland to Great Britain in payment for goods purchased by Irish customers.

The Savings Bank transactions of the post office constitute a large and important portion of the business of the department which has been already dealt with to some extent when considering bank deposits and savings.

It will be observed by Table XIX. that the deposits in Post Office Savings Banks in 1881 amounted to £674,000, in 1890 to £1,072,000, being £398,000 or 59.1 per cent. more. The withdrawals in 1881 were £545,000, or £129,000 less than the deposits. In 1890 the withdrawals were £873,000, or £199,000 less than the deposits. The average yearly deposits in the first five years of the decade amounted to £788,000, in the second five years to £1,045,000. As already shown, in proportion to the deposits, the withdrawals have decreased, proving an increase in the accumulation of savings, as already pointed out in the statistics of banking deposits when considering Table XVII.

X. EDUCATION.

The only tests of educational progress during the decade, besides those furnished by the census returns (which are not yet available), are the statistics furnished by the Board of National Education. The principal figures supplied by that Board are given in Table XX. which shows on the whole a favourable record. It must be remembered in dealing with this question that the population of Ireland is diminishing, and the number of children of school age decreases in accordance with this change in the population. It is therefore satisfactory to find that the number of National Schools which in 1881 was 7,648, had increased to 8,298 in 1890 or by 650, being at the rate of 8.5 per cent., and that the number of pupils had only fallen from 1,066,000 to 1,037,000, or by 29,000, being at the rate of 2.7 per cent. It is not at present possible to state the number of children of school age in Ireland according to the census of 1891, but it must have materially diminished as the population has decreased to the extent of 9.1 per cent. The slight variation during the decade in the number of children annually attending National Schools is remarkable. It is also interesting to note the steady increase in the amount of Parliamentary grant which has risen from £730,000 in 1881, to £918,000 in 1890, being an increase of £188,000, or 25.8 per cent.

During the first half of the decade the average yearly expenditure was £751,000 for 1,079,000 pupils attending 7,775 schools, while in

the second half of the decade it was £892,000 for 1,059,000 pupils attending 8,176 schools, thus the benefits of primary education seem to have been conferred on a larger proportion of the population in a considerably increased number of localities.

TABLE XX.

SHOWING THE NUMBER OF NATIONAL SCHOOLS IN IRELAND, THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN ATTENDING SUCH SCHOOLS, AND THE AMOUNT OF GRANTS VOTED BY PARLIAMENT FOR NATIONAL EDUCATION FOR EACH YEAR OF THE DECADE 1881-90, WITH AVERAGES FOR THE QUINQUENNIAL PERIODS 1881-85 AND 1886-90, AND FOR THE DECADE 1881-90.

Year.	Schools.	Pupils.	Parliamentary Grants.
		ooo omitted.	ooo omitted. £
1881	7,648	1,066	730
1882	7,705	1,083	730
1883	7,752	1,081	726
1884	7,832	1,089	756
1885	7,936	1,076	814
1886	8,024	1,072	852
1887	8,112	1,072	874
1888	8,196	1,061	899
1889	8,251	1,053	918
1890	8,298	1,037	918
Average 1881-85	7,775	1,079	751
Average 1886-90	8,176	1,059	892
Average 1881-90	7,975	1,069	822

XI. POOR RELIEF.

In Table XXI. will be found the statistics of the principal operations for the relief of the poor in Ireland.

Contrasting the year 1881 with the year 1890 it appears that the number of persons relieved in workhouses fell from 364,000 in the former, to 334,000 in the latter year, but comparing the first half of the decade with the second half, we find that the average of the former, 325,000, was less than the average of the latter, 370,000, the average for the whole decade being 347,000. During the first four years of the decade there was a tendency to decrease in the amount of workhouse relief; from the year 1885 to 1888, inclusive, there was a tendency to increase, while since that period there has been a renewed tendency to decrease.

The variations in out-door relief are of a similar character to these in the workhouse relief. The tendency to increase in the number of poor persons receiving aid from the poor-law through blind and deaf and dumb asylums must not be taken as necessarily indicating an increase in the number of those afflicted persons in Ireland, but it probably does indicate that the very poor persons so afflicted are better cared for.

The cost of poor relief has decreased somewhat during the decade; in 1881 the expenditure amounted to £965,000, in 1890 it was £856,000, being £109,000 or 11.3 per cent less. The annual average for the first half of the decade was £962,000, for the second half £864,000, being £98,000 less, which tends to show, that although the number of persons relieved was more, the amount of relief required by them was less.

TABLE XXI.

SHOWING THE NUMBER OF PERSONS RELIEVED UNDER THE POOR-LAW, AND THE AMOUNT EXPENDED ON POOR RELIEF IN IRELAND EACH YEAR DURING THE DECADE 1881-90, WITH AVERAGES FOR THE QUINQUENNIAL PERIODS 1881-85 AND 1886-90, AND FOR THE DECADE 1881-90.

Year.	No. of Persons who received relief under Poor-law Acts.				Poor Relief.
	In Workhouses.	Out-Door.	In Blind and Deaf and Dumb Asylums.	Total.	Expenditure in £
1881	ooo omitted. 364	ooo omitted. 226	778	ooo omitted. 591	ooo omitted. 965
1882	334	131	797	466	967
1883	305	133	808	439	1,043
1884	300	116	796	417	946
1885	320	121	800	442	888
1886	361	271	835	633	904
1887	387	135	887	523	858
1888	397	129	888	527	850
1889	370	121	877	492	854
1890	334	120	912	455	856
Average 1881-85	325	145	796	471	962
Average 1886-90	370	155	880	526	864
Average 1881-90	347	150	838	498	913

XII. SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION.

In the following statement I have compared the ratio of many of the principal elements I have been dealing with to the population, etc., in 1881 and in 1890 :—

	1881.	1890.	Increase.	Decrease.
Valuation per head of population in £,	2.7	3.0	0.3	—
Valuation of agricultural land per head of rural population in £, --	2.6	3.1	0.5	—
Acres of cereal crops per head of population, --	0.34	0.32	—	0.02
Acres of meadow and clover per head of population, --	0.39	0.45	0.06	—
Acres of all crops per head of population, --	1.00	1.05	0.05	—
Heads of cattle per head of population (3 sheep = 1 head of cattle), --	0.98	1.21	0.23	—
Acres of grass lands per head of cattle, --	2.0	1.8	—	0.2
Gallons of whiskey distilled per head of population, --	1.8	2.8	1.0	—
Barrels of beer brewed per head of population, --	0.37	0.53	0.16	—
Railway capital in £ per head of population, --	6.6	7.7	1.1	—
Railway receipts in £ per head of population, --	0.50	0.65	0.15	—
Tons of shipping per head of population, --	2.09	2.23	0.14	—
Cash balances, etc., in Joint-Stock Banks in £ per head of population,	5.8	7.1	1.3	—
Deposits in Savings Banks in £ per head of population --	0.7	1.2	0.5	—
Customs receipts in £ per head of population, --	0.38	0.45	0.07	—
Letters delivered per head of population, --	15.9	21.3	5.4	—
No. of persons relieved under Poor-law Acts per 1,000 of the population,	114.2	97.1	—	17.1

From the foregoing remarks, I think we have reason to conclude that Ireland has progressed favourably in material prosperity during the last decade.

