

6
IRISH POVERTY

AND

ENGLISH SYMPATHY.

A STORY

OF

INDUSTRIAL HELP

IN

CONNEMARA.

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PREFACE.

THE following pages explain the origin and progress of the movement in Manchester for the encouragement of industries amongst the poverty-stricken people of a wild district in Connemara. It is hoped that readers who sympathise with the work, and have not already contributed, will aid in developing the industries by taking shares in The Connemara Industries Company, Limited. A copy of the Prospectus of the Company, with Form of Application for Shares, will be found at the end of this pamphlet.

FRED SCOTT,

HON. SEC.,

Carna Industrial Fund.

CONTENTS.

	PAGE
“Father Tom,” or Carna, its Condition, and its Priest	3
“Help for the People of Carna,” Report of Public Meeting in Manchester.....	10
“Father Tom Revisited,” Results of Four Months’ Operations	16
“What Visitors Think of the Work in Carna”—	
Messrs. E. B. and S. B. Benson	22
Sir Ughtred Kay-Shuttleworth, Bart., M.P.....	27
Mr. Joshua Rowntree, M.P.....	28
First Annual Meeting of the Carna Industrial Fund—	
Proceedings.....	30
List of Committee.....	31
Committee’s Report	32
Financial Statement	38
List of Subscribers	39
Prospectus of the Connemara Industries Company, Limited	42

FATHER TOM.

[Reprinted from the "Manchester Guardian," November 23rd, 1887.]

(FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.)

CARNA, GALWAY.

FATHER TOM will, I know, excuse me for using the name by which he is universally known in Galway. In directories and formal documents he may be called the Rev. T. J. Flannery, P.P., Carna, Galway; in the hearts of the peasantry he lives and reigns as Father Tom. A strong, well-knit man of middle height, full of vitality and activity, bursting with facts and figures, twinkling as to the eyes, always ready to show a row of white teeth when a joke is to the fore, or to pour forth a screed of maledictory Irish on any delinquent; kind and hospitable as man can be—such is Father Tom, the absolute lord and master of thirty miles of coast in the wildest parts of Galway. I believe I have heard some talk about Home Rule and rights of landlords in other districts of Ireland. Here Father Tom is sole monarch, caring for no created thing, while all created things regard him with unbounded awe and reverence. I had made the acquaintance of Father Tom at Clifden, and he had kindly invited me to see his kingdom and his subjects. So on a cold November morning I drove out from Clifden to visit him and his folk. It was a drive I shall not easily forget. As soon as you leave Mannin Bay the road crosses a plain of rocks. On the left are the fantastic peaks of the Twelve Pin Mountains, and between these and the coast is a vast stretch of stony hillocks, none more than a few yards high. Hundreds of streams issuing from the mountains meander between these hillocks and form lakes and bogs. The lakes are simply innumerable, and vary in size from respectable sheets of water to tiny little basins. All swarm with brown trout, and many also contain salmon and white trout. This plain is uninhabitable; not even an Irishman has dared to attempt its cultivation. But it is a famous sporting ground. Grouse, wild ducks, wild geese, and snipes abound, and if Capt. Hector, whose story is told in "The Antiquary," were now alive he would have ample opportunity of distinguishing himself against the *phocæ* who tumble about the rocks on the sea shore. On this plain, which extends for nearly twelve Irish miles, I did not see a single human being nor a sign of human habitation.

At Cashel, a solitary mountain with a small hamlet at its foot, I met Father Tom. Here his domain begins. It stretches round the peninsula formed by Bertraghboy Bay and Kilkieran Bay. This is a parish thirty miles long by about eight miles broad. Inland there are no

inhabitants whatever, but several hundred families are found on the sea coast itself. It is, indeed, a singular place for any settlement of man. Quite half the surface of the ground is bare granite or Silurian schist, and the rest is bog. Lakes and inlets of the sea have made the country a perfect labyrinth. You come on water every few yards, and you never know (when the tide is high) whether the water is fresh or salt. Of course when the tide is low the seaweed tells you which is which. It seems impossible to believe that seven hundred families can find subsistence in such a spot, and in truth the population is probably the most miserably poor in Ireland. Perhaps, if we except the savages of Terra del Fuego, they are the poorest in the whole world.

Leaving Cashel with Father Tom, who was in waiting for me with his car, we drove over a country very like that which we had left behind us, except that it was more rocky and less boggy. At a place called Callan-cruck (harbour under the hill), which apparently consisted of one house, we stopped in order that Father Tom might show me a school, in which he took immense pride and delight. It being a fixed principle, not to say religion, with the Irish landlord that he is to be a recipient merely, Father Tom, though he had tried hard, had not been able to get a lease for his school. So the children of the men who, struggling hard against innumerable evils, were providing (or failing to provide) an income for a gentleman living in London, were all huddled together in the barn of a farmhouse. The floor was trodden earth. At one end a few sods of turf were smoking on the ground. Some forms were arranged opposite this fire. In a corner was a blackboard. On the walls some excellent maps hung. There was a cheery, energetic, and altogether wholesome little woman as the schoolmistress, and she soon had her pupils ranged in line before us. What a wonderful sight they were! Every child had bare legs and feet, was clothed in a medley of rags, and had a face sweet, winsome, and intelligent.* They read a story about a lighthouse in a tottering, pattering kind of accent which showed that English was a foreign tongue to them; but they got over dreadful bullfinches like "indefatigable" with a resolution which proved how well they had been drilled. But believing for my part that the right pronunciation of "indefatigable" is scarcely the whole life of man or child, I proceeded to put some of those questions which I myself, as a father, would like to have answered quite first of all. How far did these children come? On an average from three to four miles. How did they

* See page 9.

manage about their dinner? A smile came over the face of the schoolmistress. I supposed they brought it with them? The smile broadened to a grin of delight, as if I had propounded some exquisite joke. Why, *they none of them ever had any dinner!* All that these children had to enable them to tackle a foreign language and dreadful sums in compound long division was (occasionally) a meal of potatoes in the early morning, and (generally) another meal of the same kind in the evening. They had nothing more, and during the whole interval they were absolutely fasting.

Leaving this school we drove on to Carna, which is Father Tom's home and headquarters. Carna may be best described as a puzzle of rocks badly put together. Where the joints are imperfectly put together on the one side the sea comes in; on the other side, lakes and streams; if any interstices are left they are filled up with bog. The man who could earn a living by leaping from rock to rock and tumbling into sea or fresh water or black mud would gain a fortune at Carna; otherwise I should say the place was decidedly ineligible. The general impression produced on the mind of a stranger is that at Carna he has either to live on stepping stones or (aquatically) by dodging them. There are also a few stony hills where you can avoid the water—fresh and salt—and the bog, if you think it worth while to attain to this blessing by having to jump perpetually from boulder to boulder at the risk of spraining your ankle or breaking your leg if you ever make a false step. This inhospitable land—if a mixture of rocks and water can be called land—is, as I have said, inhabited by 700 families. The people are a strong, brave, healthy, and handsome race. Their dress is so distinctive that, seeing the congregation coming from mass on Sunday morning, one can hardly fancy one's self in the British Islands. The men wear frieze or flannel clothing of home manufacture, the upper garment being a sort of sleeved waistcoat. The women and girls have scarlet petticoats, and a white woollen shawl over their heads, and even at chapel five out of six are barefooted and barelegged. But the dress of the little boys is most peculiar. It is a frock of unbleached wool, which reaches down to the feet. So attired, a Connemara boy looks uncommonly like a little monk.* In fact, I could hardly decide whether the dress was more picturesque than comic, or *vice versa*.

When I had taken in a few of these facts, Father Tom took me to the water's edge. The great and perhaps only excellence of his parish is that a water's edge is never wanting anywhere. Here we found a boat. As in Father Tom's district you progress on land by trying to avoid water,

* See page 9.

so you progress on water by endeavouring to dodge rocks. Our boat was an unwieldy one, and the oars resembled the "sweeps" of barges. Yet it was wonderful to see how skilfully the men twisted this awkward craft among the rocks, and drove her through a place where the tide was running like a mill-race. It was equally wonderful that they knew their way at all among the hundreds of pointed crags, many of them just under the surface. Some places near Carna are, indeed, inaccessible at half tide. The people who want to go to or from their homes have to wait for full tide when they can use their boats, or for low tide when they can wade. When at last we got into somewhat more open water the scene was at once beautiful and interesting. The water was exquisitely clear, and the seaweed was of every rich shade of brown and red. A flock of curlews were standing on a beach like sentinels, or wheeling overhead with their whistling cry of *ooa*. Divers were popping up and down all over the bay. A heron flew lazily by with a fish in his mouth. A crowd of wild ducks hurtled past far up in the sky. Father Tom showed me some rocks, where, he said, a dozen or more seals might be seen any morning, and he further told me that sea dogs (otters) abounded in every creek. A whiff of smoke now came along the surface of the water, and brought with it a peculiar aromatic odour. We landed, and scrambling over some rocks, were soon in the presence of a party of kelp-burners. Kelp-burning is in fact the chief industry of Carna and the district. Kelp is made from a seaweed which grows from a long stalk rooted to the rocks six or seven feet below the surface of the water. The peasants thrust down a long pole with an iron projection at the end, give it a dexterous twist so as to get hold of the stalk, and wrench up the weed. The leaves are then dried and burnt. A few sods of live turf are laid on the ground and a small portion of the weed is thus lighted. The fire is gradually fed by handfuls at a time till all the weed which is ready has been consumed. The process is a tedious one, and two men will be engaged for a whole day in burning a very small stock of weed—scarcely an English cartload. As the weed burns, its solid parts melt, and are subsequently cooled into a black hard mass, which is sold in Scotland to the manufacturers of iodine. In former days as much as £13 a ton was given for kelp, and then the peasants could earn high wages; but at present the industry barely pays. I was told that when kelp was at £4 a ton, and when the weather was continuously fine, a man could earn from two shillings to half-a-crown a day, finding his own ropes and gearing. But very often he could only earn sixpence a day, and sometimes not even that. The kelp season lasts

from May till September. I happened to see some kelp-burning only because a quite exceptional order had come from Guernsey.

Such is the industry on which Father Tom's parishioners mainly rely. The land helps them a very little. Where there is a bit of pasture they rear a few cattle, and generally find a scrap of bog for their potatoes. They also get fish for their own eating when they have boats and tackle; but there is no market for the sale of fish, because Carna is fifty miles from the nearest railway, and the navigation of the rock-studded sea is difficult and hazardous. In fact, Father Tom's flock are miserably poor. Some of them have not paid rent for ten years. Many have been ejected over and over again, but they creep back to their miserable homesteads, and it is nobody's interest to drive them finally away. I went with Father Tom into one house and saw a sight I shall not readily forget. The house was built of turf and unhewn stones without any mortar. It consisted of one room about 13ft. by 8ft. There was no window and no chimney. The smoke of the turf fire found its way out of a hole in the roof. The door was so low that I had to creep into the house on all-fours. Except an iron pot, a tin pot, two or three plates, and a heap of rags for bedding, there was absolutely no furniture. A gaunt-looking woman sat in a corner on the ground, and two young children cowered in the folds of her dress. All were wretchedly ill—the children had whooping-cough—and all were starving. They had nothing but a few potatoes to eat. The children wore the remnants of frocks, but were practically naked. Father Tom told me that of his 700 families at least 100 were as badly off as the family I saw. It must always be remembered that in places like Carna there are no resident gentry to help the poor in their hour of need. The Union—which, by the bye, is hopelessly bankrupt—helps them, or they help each other, or Father Tom helps them, or—they die. Father Tom is an enthusiast in education, and is justly proud of his schools. He is now building one for his boys at Carna at an expense of about £200. In every case he finds the utmost difficulty in raising the one-third of the cost of teaching to meet the Government grant of two-thirds. The parents scarcely ever pay, or are able to pay, the school fees, and I suspect that much of the deficiency comes out of Father Tom's own pocket. I asked him how much the landlords of his parish contributed to his schools. He was eating some bread when I asked him this question. Holding a morsel of it between his thumb and forefinger, he replied emphatically, "All of them together, not as much as would buy that bit of bread."

Father Tom took me into the Convent school. There three nuns instruct nearly a hundred children. Most are girls, but there is a class of infant boys. These nuns are gentle and refined women, whose very hearts are in their work, and indeed it was only necessary to look for one moment at the face of the Mother Superior to see that her soul was brimming over with human benevolence. The children sang to us, read and showed their writing exercises. Everything was excellently done, and indeed the school stands very high among the Galway schools for the results obtained. Then a blue-eyed little girl of extraordinary beauty did some marvellous feats in Irish grammar, and made me resolve never to attempt to learn that language. Every schoolboy knows that it is bad enough to have inflections at one end of the word, as in Latin and Greek; but in Irish there are, if not inflections, at least changes in the beginning as well as the end of the words according to case and gender. These exhibitions over, a small boy, in his quaint Connemara dress, was brought forward for me to sketch. He stood like a statue, expecting the worst, but resolved to suffer like a hero, while all the school looked on in breathless awe. When I had finished all discipline was forgotten in a moment. Sixty sets of bare toes—600 toes in all—twinkled in the air at once as the owners sprang over desks and forms to see what had been done unto their schoolfellow in that mysterious sketchbook. Then I made the same inquiry as at Callanrueck, and got the same answer. None of the children ever had any dinner at all. Had any of them gone that morning without breakfast? Half a dozen hands were held up, but I noticed many of the elder girls put up their hands and then hastily withdrew them. The direst poverty and hunger has its decent pride. But even hunger was not the worst evil. The Mother Superior brought forward one little girl for my inspection. This young child had a thin frock on, and absolutely no other garment whatever. Several other children were also examined, and the result was the same—their little bodies were only protected from the winter cold by one thin garment. "I would give anything to be able to buy them a few clothes for the winter," said the Mother Superior; "ten pounds would be a fortune to me." Would I mention it to the English people? I said I would. "May heaven reward you!" said the old lady, her voice faltering with emotion. If my readers had only seen what I saw in Father Tom's parish I should need say no more. There is here no question of pauperising the people. All are working desperately to keep themselves and their families from starvation. Just now, when for the first time in their history the Irish people are learning to love their English fellow-subjects,

I want a little message of human brotherhood to come to Carna. Will nobody have compassion on the sweet little Paddies under the charge of the Mother Superior in the Convent school? Will nobody enable Father Tom to finish his school, and give him a small fund to save the more necessitous of his flock from absolute starvation? Why, of course, such a supposition is ridiculous, and I should insult my readers by adding more than the hint that they may send their contributions of money or clothes either to the "Mother Superior, the Convent, Carna, County Galway," or to Father Tom, who, for post office purposes, had better be addressed as the "Rev. T. J. Flannery, Carna, Galway."



HELP FOR THE PEOPLE OF CARNA.

MEETING IN MANCHESTER.

[*Reprinted from the "Manchester Guardian," July 18th, 1888.*]

An invitation to be present at the Mayor's Parlour, Manchester Town Hall, yesterday afternoon, at a meeting for the encouragement of Irish industries, was responded to by a large number of ladies and gentlemen. The particular district of Ireland in which it was sought to interest the meeting was Carna, on the west coast. The priest of that community the Rev. T. J. Flannery, otherwise and more widely known as Father Tom, was in attendance to plead the cause of his people, and he was supported by Mrs. Ernest Hart, whose labours to promote cottage industries in Donegal are familiar to everybody, and by several gentlemen of Manchester who have shown an active sympathy with the endeavour which has been initiated to enable the residents of Carna to help themselves.

The MAYOR (Sir J. J. Harwood) presided, and briefly opened the proceedings, expressing his sympathy with the object of the meeting and his hopes for its success.

The Rev. T. J. FLANNERY, describing his parish, said it was practically bog and granite boulders; there was little or no land such as the people of England were accustomed to see. The people were agriculturists, living chiefly on the potato crop, although he believed it was intended by Providence that they should earn a livelihood not from the land but from the sea. (Hear, hear.) Carna was surrounded by two great bays, one of which, on the west and north-west, was nine miles in extent, but had an entrance only a quarter of a mile in width, so that it was practically land-locked. The people had around them a fishing district by working which, if they only had the means, they could make themselves prosperous. At present they were perhaps the poorest community in the world. The population of the Carna district was about 750 families, and

of all the school-going children, numbering over 1,000, not twenty knew anything of the luxury of wearing boots either in summer or winter. If the people got potatoes or Indian meal they did not complain, but unfortunately there were times when the potato crop failed—not once in twenty years, but once in seven years, or oftener. When this occurred there was nothing but starvation for them, unless they could get outside assistance, and they had to ask the aid of their friends in England. This they had had to do in the past, and he feared they would have it to do in the future, unless something was done to enable them to live without being so entirely dependent upon the potato. They were most industrious people and most law abiding, as he could well testify, for during the ten years he had been amongst them there had been no outrage in the district. (Hear, hear.) If they were assisted, he thought it was quite possible for the people of Carna to make themselves happy and comfortable by their industry. During the past few months an effort had been made by an English lady—Mrs. Southern—and a few English gentlemen to establish cottage industries among them, and so far this effort had been successful. (Applause.) A good deal of work had been done. Perhaps it was rather rough at first, but through the kindness of English friends the work was being disposed of. While not hoping to compete with the products of Manchester, they thought that with assistance they would be able to conduct their operations on a commercial basis. There was nothing they regretted so much as having to be the recipients of charity every now and then. (Hear, hear.) What they wished for was the means of developing industries in their midst. They did not want money as a gift, but would be glad of it as a loan, which could be repaid as the work increased. There was no doubt of the huge quantities of fish which could be taken off the coast, but to turn this source of prosperity to account appliances must be furnished, and it was to procure these that assistance would be welcomed.

Mrs. ERNEST HART next gave a detailed account of the work of developing cottage industries, with which her name is associated in Donegal. In the first place she described vividly the poverty-stricken nature of the districts in which her experiment was tried, and went on to say that the plan to alleviate this which she introduced was to provide employment for the people in their own homes, aided by sound technical instruction. In 1883 when she went through the country the cry was everywhere for work, which the people could not obtain. With regard to the weaving industry which she had developed, when she first took up the work in 1884 she obtained samples of the best flannel made in the

district. This she found to be exceedingly faulty in manufacture, and on taking it to London tailors and asking them to buy it they refused for that reason, although they said the stuff was honest enough. They recommended as the best thing to be done that the people should be taught to make better stuff. In order to bring this about she had first to teach herself, then to teach a teacher, and afterwards to give the necessary instruction to the people. The endeavour was made in the first place to get them to weave the stuff more carefully, and afterwards they were furnished with simple patterns and other aid, until in the south of Donegal the industry could go along without assistance. Attention was then turned to the district of Gweedore, where the people were very poor, isolated, and backward. At first the effort did not make much progress there, and, indeed, did not go well until a young Donegal man was appointed as a resident agent and to teach the people. One of the first things which had to be done was to bring about an improvement in the machinery, most of the looms then in use being built of driftwood by the people themselves. Dyeing from heather and other plants was then introduced, and in that branch of industry some of the women had attained considerable efficiency, as was shown by cases of their work exhibited in the room. While teaching was going on the work of organising the industry was being steadily conducted, and proved to be about the most difficult feature of the whole business. The people were quite unaccustomed to work for wages, and it took a long time to estimate accurately what should be paid for separate items. That question was now settled, and every worker was paid cash wages for the work done. Her experience had told her that sound technical teaching was of the utmost importance, and she had made it the subject of an appeal to the Government. She urged upon Mr. Balfour and Mr. Goschen that part of the grant of £50,000 which was made last year for public purposes to Ireland should be given towards completing the experiment of technical teaching which she had begun in Donegal. A searching inquiry was made, and that being satisfactory, it was decided to grant her £1,000 for her work. (Applause.) She had since formed a representative committee to assist her in administering the grant. Donegal had been divided into five areas, in each of which it was hoped that a technical school would be established. In three of the five schools were already at work, but they were not of any great importance in the way of bricks and mortar, most of the money for technical instruction being spent in teachers' salaries. So long as in the school there was space for a loom and for certain dyeing processes, that was

all that was required. By organisation it had been found that the work could be turned out much cheaper than formerly, while the weavers earned double the money they used to do, and the women could also earn from 6d. to 1s. a day. Besides weaving, the teaching of torchon lace making was in progress in Gweedore, while at other places other varieties of home work had been introduced, and it was also proposed to start Jacquard loom weaving. This she believed to be the first effort to give systematic technical teaching in the remote mountainous districts of Ireland, where industries supplementary to agriculture must exist if the people were to escape the possibilities of starvation in certain circumstances; and in order that the industries might not come and go according to the changes of fashion and the competition of machinery, it was absolutely necessary to establish technical schools, so that one industry might be taught if another failed. (Hear, hear.) The experiment with which she had been concerned gave hope that similar work founded on technical teaching and art would succeed elsewhere. She trusted that would be the experience of their friends at Carna. (Applause.) Ireland was waiting a great industrial revival, which the smallest efforts might do something to aid. So long as the people of Ireland were mainly agricultural, and the possible coal and other minerals of the country were not worked, her industries, like those of Switzerland, Thuringia, and the Black Forest, must be largely hand and village industries. Then why should we buy our toys and many other things from abroad, and why import eggs and butter and cheese from foreign countries? All these things should and could be Irish if only the dead past could be left to bury its dead, and all would work hand in hand to bring about a brighter future. (Applause.)

Mr. J. W. SOUTHERN said he could vouch for it that there was no exaggeration in the statement which Father Flannery had made with regard to the poverty of his parish. The question for them was whether, knowing that such a state of things existed, they could hold their hands. He thought they could do something, and he proposed that in the first place they should endeavour to secure for the people of Carna some instruction in those arts by which they might earn an honest living. They were a diligent people, who would take instruction readily and profitably. What they wanted was that industries should be taught them in their cottages, as had been done in Donegal. (Hear, hear.) Proof had already been furnished by Carna itself of the use the people would make of such instruction. When the attention of the public was called to the place by what appeared in the *Manchester Guardian*, steps

were at once taken in Manchester to supply the people with some work which they could send back for sale. The work done in this way was at first very faulty, but it had been improving, and, speaking of a pair of stockings made in Carna, a leading Manchester outfitter had that day declared them to be perfect. (Applause.) A qualified agent ought to be sent to the district, who would look after the quality of the work and help the people to produce such results by their labour as would command a sale not from any charitable motive but because of intrinsic value. (Hear, hear). To do that they must begin at the beginning, as Mrs. Hart did. With regard to the funds, he would not pauperise by giving, but would provide and sell on easy terms of repayment to honest and capable people the necessary implements with which to carry on the work. (Hear, hear.) There was good reason to believe that fish in abundance could be caught off the coast, and for the development of a trade in fish he would be in favour of some of the young men of Carna being sent to Baltimore, in county Cork, in order that they might not only get practical instruction in the business of fishing, but that through the industry which had been established there by Baroness Burdett-Coutts they might become acquainted with the modes of curing fish. An appeal on behalf of the people of Carna had been printed and put in circulation. In that appeal it was proposed to raise a voluntary fund and to form a limited liability company, with a capital of £1,000, to be used commercially in furnishing the implements for the industrial operations to be carried on and in disposing of the products of the people's industry. He proposed a resolution to the effect that the appeal be adopted by the meeting, and that a committee be formed for the purpose of carrying its objects into effect.

Mr. F. SCOTT seconded the resolution, and gave an account of the excellent results which had attended the fishing industry at Baltimore. The number of boats engaged in that industry had increased from 1 to 64, each costing £600.

The resolution was carried unanimously, and

On the motion of Mr. W. T. WINDSOR, seconded by Mr. T. C. ABBOTT, and supported by Mr. A. G. COPELAND, a committee was appointed, with the Mayor of Manchester at its head.

The proceedings then terminated with votes of thanks to Mrs. Hart, Father Flannery, and the Mayor.

The following is a list of contributions already promised:—English subscribers: Mr. C. E. Schwann, M.P., £21; Mr. J. W. Southern, J.P., £20; Mr. C. N. Keeling, £20; Mr. T. C. Abbott, £10. 10s.; Mr. F.

Hall, £10. 10s.; Mr. Herbert Philips, £10. 10s.; Mr. T. Gregory, £2. 2s.; Mr. Thomas Hodgson, £2. 2s.; Mrs. Hodgson, £2. 2s.; the Chevalier Froehlich, £2. 2s.; Mr. Hermann Hirsch, £2. 2s.; Mr. F. Scott, £2. 2s.; Mr. R. Peacock, £20; Mr. C. P. Scott, £10; Miss Gaskell, £2; Miss J. Gaskell, £2; Mr. John Mather, £1; Mr. W. Grant, £25; Mrs. Roebuck, £5. 5s.; Rev. Provost Croskell, £5; Miss Pilcher, £1. 1s.; Mr. Sharp, 10s.; Mr. W. Beard, £1; Mr. Michael Dolphin, £1. 1s. Irish subscribers: Colonel Nolan, M.P., £5; Sir Thomas Brady, £5; Mr. Marcus Lynch, J.P., £10; Mr. — Robinson, J.P., £5; Mr. J. P. Pye, M.D., £3. 3s.; Messrs. Joyce & Co., £5; Mr. M. Joyce, £3. 3s.; Dr. Gorham, £5; Mr. J. Gorham, £5; Mr. H. Palmer, J.P., £5; Mr. B. Hynes, £5; Mr. J. J. O'Loughlin, P.L.G., £5; Mr. J. Cooke, P.L.G., £5; Mr. R. J. Connolly, solicitor, £5; Mr. M. Mongan, P.L.G., £5.

Capital for Company:—Mr. C. E. Schwann, M.P., £50; Mr. J. W. Southern, J.P., £30; Mr. C. N. Keeling, £30; Mr. T. C. Middleton, £5; the Chevalier Froehlich, £5; Mr. F. Scott, £5.

FATHER TOM REVISITED.

[Reprinted from the "*Manchester Guardian*," November 16th, 1888.]

(FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.)

CARNA.

About a year ago the merest accident brought me to Carna, an extensive seaboard parish in Connemara. There I found a large population suffering from the direst poverty. Many were in danger of actual starvation; all wanted the commonest necessities of life. The noble priest of the parish—known throughout Galway as "Father Tom"—had to struggle, unaided and alone, with the miseries of his flock. The place is practically out of ken—a wilderness of rocks and bogs on the Atlantic shore, and separated from civilisation and the world's charities by uninhabited wastes. In the simplest language I told the story of what I had seen, and instantly the warm hearts of the Lancashire people were quickened with pity and benign sympathy. The immediate wants of Carna were relieved, and a company was formed, having for its object the establishment of some permanent industries at this remote and previously unfriended spot. Visiting Carna again, I wished to see how far the miserable aspect of the place had been changed, what fruit had been borne by the noble charity which the readers of the *Manchester Guardian* had extended to Father Tom's flock, and what hopes existed for the future.

Carna is situated on the peninsula formed by Bertraghboy Bay on the west and by Kilkieran Bay on the east. There were till a few days ago but two land routes by which it could be reached—one from Recess, about fifteen miles distant, and another from Clifden, over twenty miles away. Now, a glance at the map will show that under these circumstances the greater part of the parish along the shore of Kilkieran Bay was practically inaccessible. In fact, unless an immense circuit were taken it could only be approached by sea—and that on a singularly dangerous coast—or by climbing over mountains and wading through bogs. Moreover, the road from Carna to Kilkieran Bay stopped short at the village of Kilkieran, and not even a footpath existed to Loughconneera, a

populous hamlet at the northern extremity of the bay. When, therefore, Father Tom was called upon to administer the sacraments at night to dying persons, he had to scramble over rocks and pick his way through dangerous morasses. Sometimes the people would turn out to guide him with relays of rude torches, but, generally speaking, he had to find his way through the darkness for many miles with no other aid than his knowledge of the ground. But lately a road has been made from Kilkieran to Loughconneera, and within the present year it has been extended from Loughconneera to Recess. Thus, not only are the several parts of Father Tom's parish connected *inter se*, but the remotest part has gained access to the main road from Clifden to Galway. Carna still lies on the confines of civilisation, but the greater part of the parish is no longer isolated from the rest of Ireland. The making of the road has, besides, served another and most important end. The peasants of Carna have for many months been in constant employment at what, to them, are noble wages—eighteen-pence a day.

This has given time for the organisation of the new industries, for the necessary teaching, and for judicious experiments. Had the whole population been forced to rush pell-mell into fishing, or weaving, or knitting, many blunders must have been made, and many disasters might have been incurred. As it is, Father Tom and his coadjutors in Manchester and Ireland have had time to make good their ground without so far running a single risk.

Early in the morning Father Tom met me at Recess, and drove me by the new route by Kilkieran Bay to Carna. And here let me express my admiration of the priest's gallant pony, which that day covered forty honest miles—seven or eight of them over loose sand and stones which had not had time to settle—without a feed or a rest, and still had a cheerful trot and a wayward shake of the head left to the very end. After passing through a mountain solitude where nothing living was to be seen save a cormorant and a flock of curlews, we descended to the coast at the head of Kilkieran Bay. Here we met a formidable obstacle. Some labourers had just dug a deep trench right across the road for the purpose of making a drain. However, the pony was unharnessed and led round the hillside, and a good screed of Irish from Father Tom speedily collected some peasants, who lifted the car on their shoulders across the chasm. Thence we drove along the coast—all thickly

inhabited, and all in Father Tom's parish—for about ten or twelve miles till we reached Carna itself. In each hamlet there was a neat national school—every one built under Father Tom's *régime*—where the little Paddies were thoughtfully crinkling their bare toes as they encountered the mysteries of learning. I visited four schools, and in them there was scarcely a child who had not been warmly and decently clothed by Manchester benevolence. The legs and feet remained bare, as is universal in Ireland, but the bodies were well protected against the cold of winter. I was glad to see that most of the boys retained their quaint and monkish garb of white flannel reaching to the ankles, but whereas last winter they had nothing beneath this single vestment—often in rags—now they had comfortable underclothing to keep the heat in their little bodies. Arriving at Carna after our long round, we went at once to the Convent school. Here I was warmly welcomed by the Mother Superior and the nuns, while the children clapped their hands and cheered again and again. Then a little maid came forward, whose soft grey eyes glancing timidly from under black eyelashes, and lips of tremulous mobility were things beautiful to behold. I remembered this young girl performing prodigious feats in Irish grammar when I was last at Carna. She was now monitress, and in that capacity read an address of welcome from the children of the school. The address was full of the most touching gratitude, and spoke of the “outburst of charity from the kind people of Manchester which brought grateful joy to the abodes of want and wretchedness, which covered our trembling limbs, and caused blanched cheeks to regain their rosy hue.” Next the upper classes of girls sang some verses—composed, I was told, in Manchester—which repeated in rhythmical form the appeal made last year in the *Manchester Guardian*. In short, the demonstration was quite pathetic in its earnest enthusiasm, and those who subscribed to the fund raised on behalf of Carna may rest assured that their benevolence has received its fullest meed of thankfulness. Till last year Manchester was merely a geographical name in Carna; and now by every man, woman, and child in the place Manchester is regarded with an affection that very nearly approaches devotion.

Afterwards I went to the cottage which is the headquarters of the peasant industries. Here Miss M'Groarty, an energetic and capable woman, with her heart in her work, is teaching the Carna girls to knit and do crochet work. A large class was hard at it when I entered, and I was told that Miss M'Groarty has 150 families on her books in the Carna

district, and as many more in the Kilkieran district. The girls were at first a little backward in applying for instruction. The thing was so utterly novel to these Connemara damsels that they knew not what to make of it. But the moment they discovered—to their utter astonishment—that good honest shillings could actually be earned, all hesitation vanished, and this winter there will be no idle fingers in Father Tom's parish. They make socks, stockings, several kinds of underclothing, and crochet work. Most of these things are sold through Mrs. Southern, of Manchester, and some kind friends of hers at Birmingham. Father Tom has also obtained from a wholesale house in London a strictly commercial order for children's knitted vests. It is as yet too early to give exact results, because at present sufficient quantities of goods cannot be turned out to leave much profit over and above the freight. But when these peasant industries are in full swing, as they will be during the winter, there is no reasonable doubt that every Carna girl of moderate capacity and industry will be able to earn about two shillings a week. Here let me pause to explain. The economic conditions at Carna are wholly different from those obtaining in England. If a girl in Manchester could only earn two shillings a week the kindest thing would be to advise her—even force her—to seek at any risk better employment. But a Carna girl can only labour on the land; no other work is possible for her. With her father and brothers, she collects seaweed for manure, hoes potatoes and stacks turf for fuel. But from November to March she has scarcely anything to do. When the cow (if there is one) has been milked and the pigs and poultry fed, she is practically idle. Now I suppose that the ordinary income of a Carna family is from six to nine shillings a week, and I fancy that there are very few families in Father Tom's parish who can make sure of such an income all the year round. If, therefore, a couple of girls in a Carna household can earn between them four shillings a week during the winter months, and a somewhat smaller sum in the summer months, the family income is increased by at least 50 per cent., and the pressure of utter poverty is at once removed. Then, again, we must remember that the Carna people, gifted with magnificent health and living in an atmosphere ethereally pure, require few of those comforts which to the poorest in an English town have become necessities of life. I am, therefore, not exaggerating in the least when I say that every half-crown earned in Carna is equivalent to half-a-sovereign earned in Manchester. The eagerness with which the Carna girls are taking to knitting

industries proves that they are thoroughly satisfied with the wages they are getting.

And now, what of the fisheries? Father Tom has four small hookers, each taking four hands, engaged with drift nets and deep sea lines. All the coarse fish can be disposed of in the neighbourhood, and Mr. Phillips, a Liverpool merchant, will take any quantity of cured mackerel. This gentleman deserves well of Ireland. I met him last year at Bantry Bay, and was much impressed by his astuteness and energy on the one hand, and his benevolence on the other. He is as anxious as any theorising philanthropist to develop the Irish fisheries, but he works on the most strictly commercial lines, and will engage in no enterprise that does not promise a reasonable profit. Would that Ireland had many such friends. Father Tom hopes much also from the lobster fishing, and many of his people are hard at work collecting osiers and forming them into lobster pots.

Carna now looks on itself as in a peculiar sense the child of Manchester, and I can report with the utmost confidence that the child is doing well. The first thing to accomplish was to create the industrial spirit. That is done. All that remains is to make the industries a commercial success. As to that, Father Tom has no misgiving whatever. Without doubt some mistakes will be made, but on the whole I feel assured that Carna has been delivered from all fear of that awful and heart-rending poverty which I saw last year. In the prospectus of the Carna Industrial Company, Limited (Connemara Industries Company, Limited), are these wise words, "While the primary object of the Company is philanthropic, its methods will be commercial." Well, the philanthropist and the sterner economist may alike look with satisfaction on the work already accomplished. The very faces of the people seem changed. Despair has given place to hope, sadness to the exquisite delight of new-born energies. Of all my experiences in Ireland, my second visit to Carna will remain the pleasantest.

Leading Article from the "Manchester Guardian."

The name of "Father Tom" of Carna is a household word in Manchester, and the name of Manchester has now a familiar and a grateful sound in Carna. When our Special Correspondent a year ago chanced upon that wild and secluded district of rocks and bogs on the Atlantic shore, he made in these pages a statement of the despairing condition of the peasantry of Carna. The pathos of the facts so disclosed touched the hearts of the Manchester people, and an effort was made to give these poor folk

that which they had never had before—a chance of remunerative industry. To-day we print a communication from our correspondent, in which he describes the change that has been wrought in the condition and spirit of the people of Carna. There is much yet to be done, but the great thing accomplished is that despair has been exorcised. The Carna peasant no longer feels entirely cut off from civilisation, for brotherly hands have been stretched out to him, have clothed the limbs of his little ones, have found employment for the unoccupied hours of his girls, and are helping him in the creation of industries that will repay his toil. “Where there is no hope there can be no endeavour,” is one of the wise sayings of Dr. Johnson. We are glad to think that our city has supplied this useful stimulus, and that the development of the peasant industries of Carna, whilst originating in a philanthropic impulse, is to be governed by commercial principles. It is not to be the distribution of a charity, but the foundation of an industry. The touching gratitude of the people for what has been done is in itself a demonstration of how little they have been accustomed to receive sympathy or help. * * *

* * * This is the lesson of the sympathetic relations between this toiling city of Manchester and the wild seaboard parish of Carna, just struggling into industrial hope and activity.

WHAT VISITORS THINK OF THE WORK IN CARNA.

LETTER FROM MESSRS. E. B. & S. B. BENSON.

[*To the Editor of the "Manchester Guardian."*]

SIR,

We have noticed that your columns are ever open to receive notices of the progress of the parish of Carna, county Galway, for the encouragement of whose parish priest and the improvement of the social condition of the people, the interest awakened by your correspondents' reports has already done so much. It may not, therefore, be unacceptable if we briefly sketch the impression which a two days' visit has left upon the minds of two English tourists hitherto unacquainted with the special interest attaching to the place.

And first as to how we came to visit Carna. We arrived one evening at Letterfrack Hotel, having travelled by car from Galway *via* Clifden, and intending to pass on quickly to Westport. At lunch we fell in with an English lady resident there for the purpose of teaching the young native folk the art of basket making. Mutual sympathy made us communicative, and a glowing account of "Father Tom" of Carna and his parochial energy, coupled with a description of the knitting industry there established, led up to a pressing invitation to go and see for ourselves the way to implant new hope and life in crushed spirits, and to open up to cottars sunk in misery a way to an honest livelihood and a comfortable independence. We determined to retrace our steps. A beautiful walk by Lough Inagh to Recess, and an early mail car drive to Carna next morning, landed us at Father Flannery's door. Now for what we saw and heard in Carna. Most cordial was our welcome to the home of the parish priest. So soon as he was assured that we were not the emissaries of any political party, or likely to damage his interest with any of the friends who were helping him, we had the freest access to all he could tell or show. At once we entered into free and earnest conversation with him; we heard some of the past difficulties of his people, and their happy and peaceful issue. We heard of the making of roads and bridges, of the building of piers and schools, of the development of the lobster fisheries, and finally of the knitting industry of Mr. Pattison, with its more

recent development, thanks to the Manchester company, whose objects include an extension of the mackerel and herring fisheries. We were more and more interested as we listened. But we soon experienced that, like ourselves, Father Tom believed in people judging by sight, and not by hearing only. He was just starting with Miss Southern, who is residing in his parish to teach his folk knitting and to superintend the industry, to Kilkieran, and we gladly consented when he invited us to accompany them.

It was a drive of seven miles we were to take, but before we started there was something to be seen. Close to Father Tom's gate was the depôt for Mr. Pattison's knitted vests. There Miss M'Groarty has charge of Mr. Pattison's depôt, and explained how to her cottage came girls and women for the wool and for instruction in knitting, and then brought back the vests for sale. Clearly much work found its centre there. When we had seen this—all that was to be seen just then at the London centre—we started together on our drive to Kilkieran. A general view of the parish was soon obtained—its rocky holdings and tiny cottages, its miles of sea coast on one side, and its miles of mountain and bog on the other. Our first halting was at one of Father Tom's schools, a small but substantial building. Inside were seventy or eighty young folk, boys and girls of various ages, bright and clean, clad in staple homespun and woven clothing, happily pursuing their studies under the care of a kindly schoolmistress. It struck us that the London School Board might supply better accommodation and more rigid drill, but would fail to reproduce the homely picture that was now before us. The studies were not very deep, but exactly suited to the needs of the scholars—good reading, good writing, good arithmetic, and for the girls sewing and knitting in abundance. On the following day we visited the other schools—the Convent school at Carna for the girls, where brightness and cleanliness, together with evident signs of good work, reached their highest point; and the struggling school on one of the islands, where, so unused were the little folk to strange faces, our arrival caused some consternation amongst the youngest scholars. Yet from no sight did we get a more striking proof of the reforming movement now in progress on these inhospitable shores. There are now in the parish of Carna eleven schools, at an average distance of five or six miles from each other, whereas nine years ago there were only four or five. Take note also of two new ones soon to be opened, and Father Tom, we think, cannot be charged with lack of zeal for education. Nor can the English friends, who are helping the Carna folk to material prosperity, feel any fear that mental culture is deficient.

But we must proceed with our drive, over rocky and undulating ground, the road threading its way through many a little plot and past many a cot where humble folk for years had laboured and lived. The friendly parish priest stopped now and again to take us into the homes of his people. Hope and love shone on every face. No girl or woman was idle, but fingers busily plied the knitting needles. The homes, though often very small and poor, were yet for the most part brighter than we had seen elsewhere in Ireland. At Kilkieran we drew up at the house now occupied by Miss Southern, and which is the centre of the Manchester industry. There the stores of wool and knitted products are kept; there the workers come for wool, and return their work and receive their payment; there the new beginners are instructed by Miss Southern and her helper; there efforts are made to hit upon dyes of local matter suitable for various articles; and there, by-and-bye, some looms and a special instructor are to be established. Here we learned that most of the homes in the parish, either from this centre or from Mr. Pattison's centre at Carna, are already busy, and that every school, with its mistress, is an active agent in spreading the work. After lunch, kindly provided for us by Miss Southern, we went out for a look round the village and neighbourhood. At once we saw signs of wholesome and rapid improvement. Miss Southern's house had been newly slated, whitewashed, and painted; and lo! in the village there was quite an epidemic for these same three tokens of civilisation. On our route we were invited to call upon one of Father Tom's parishioners. The old lady sat behind her cot and knitted; her daughter was knitting too. Yet old debts pressed heavily, and the rent was behind. She craved alms, but her good priest knew a better way. "We will become sureties for you," said he, "for the cost of a spinning wheel, and you and your daughter thereby will clear the path to an honest independence." So the matter was settled. Now mark what this woman's state is now compared with what it was. Before, no hope, but debt and drudgery. Now her weekly rent of 6d. can be easily earned by herself or daughter in less than one day's knitting. Inside at present, we admit, to our taste, her accommodation was but scanty. The friendly priest asked whether, if we came again, she would take us in. With an honest doubt upon her face, yet taking his question in earnest, she slowly replied, "It would, sure, take £10, or maybe £20, to fit my cottage for the like of ye." We smiled a good-bye, for she could not understand our foreign tongue, and parted from the humble home where, as in hundreds of other cases, hope of a livelihood independent of begging, and freedom from constant dread

of eviction, had taken the place of an ever-impending failure of all that could support life. As we wished her adieu we met a hale fellow, with an honest, open countenance, who proved to be the first real master fisherman of that parish.

Not content with roads, bridges, piers, and schools, knitting and weaving, the attention of Father Tom, ever alert to find scope for the energy and improvement of his parishioners, has long been turned to the sea, with its shoals of uncaught mackerel and herring drifting all along his thirty miles of mainland coast, and round his off-lying islands. The simple folk know not how to fish; then he will teach them, or have them taught. The poor folk have no boats and nets; then he, if English money and friends will help him, will secure both, and sell or loan them to the now idle hands. There is no market; then he will move heaven and earth to obtain one, and a dealer to cure the fish on the spot and ship them off, if such can be found. Till then he himself will see to their being cured and packed off as well as may be. And that all this is no idle talk, but a reality, the ensuing conversation between the Father and the fisherman soon showed. This man had taken boat and net from his priest, and promised to pay so much each year till the debt was paid for, and the appliances thus became his own. With four helpers night after night he had ploughed the billows and cast and drawn his nets, brought home the fish, cured and packed them himself, and sent them off to England; and lo! he now bids fair to pay in one season the instalments for this and the following three years, besides receiving for himself and his men fair return for their labour. Beyond this, Father Tom has at the Carna end of his parish a fishing smack of his own which he lends to the fishermen; and this effort, too, seems to promise future success. To develop the fisheries to an almost unlimited extent two things only are needed—first and foremost, a market sure and safe; an English dealer, with an agent in Kilkieran or Carna, to buy the fish when they land, cure and pack them, and send them off; and also, for a while, if we gathered rightly, a practical fisherman with a boat or two on the spot, the more rapidly and perfectly to train the local men to this new work, and encourage them to venture out on the deep.

With strengthened interest and satisfaction we returned to Miss Southern's home, the centre of the work; chatted at tea over the whole work, and still further grasped its progress; saw the workroom full of young learners plying their needles; watched the experiments at dyeing local wool, by boiling it with dye extracted from plants indigenous to

Carna. As evening drew in, we wished kind Miss Southern and her workers good-bye, and returned to Carna. There we paid a fresh visit to Mr. Pattison's centre for knitted vests. The storehouse, we found, had one end pulled down for further extension; and the work was coming in from all directions to be packed in bales for shipment to London. The quality of this work, as of the Manchester industry at Kilkieran, left nothing to be desired; and the hold that both are gaining on the affection of the people, through the manifest benefit which they confer, encourages the confident expectation that success lies ahead.

We must not delay now to speak of more—the hospitality of Father Tom and his unlimited confidence; the pleasure of the hours of converse we held on various topics mutually interesting; the beautiful sail round the islands which we enjoyed with him. Suffice it to say, we heartily recommend English tourists to pay Carna a visit. Mongan's Hotel at Carna gives most comfortable accommodation, and if there is interest in the people's welfare the parish priest, who knows all in the parish, will show and tell all there is to be known. But more, we saw enough to come to this conclusion, that, whether it be the woollen or the fishing industry, capital and market are needed, and there is scope for both; that, whether Englishmen realise it yet or not, there is a true deep bond of love and gratitude wherever such friendly help is granted in Ireland; that Father Tom and his people in particular are flourishing as compared to what they were, and will yet, please God, flourish the more owing to the outstretched hand of Manchester's wealth and love to them in their time of need. Hungry mouths have been filled, bare backs have been clothed, outstanding debts of years have been paid, degrading drudgery of girls and women has been stopped, dull despair and broken hearts and empty homesteads have been and are being exchanged for hope and peace and bright home life! Go on, befrienders of Carna; commercial methods and philanthropic intentions here blend in harmony.

Yours, &c.,

EDWIN B. BENSON.

S. BROWNLOW BENSON.

Shrewsbury and Oxford, July 18, 1889.

LETTER FROM THE RIGHT HON.
SIR U. K. SHUTTLEWORTH, M.P.

Barbon Manor, Kirkby Lonsdale,

29th July, 1889.

MY DEAR SIR,

I am sorry that I cannot attend to-morrow; but I have been unwell for a few days, and am not sufficiently recovered to come to the meeting.

If I could have spoken a few words to the friends of the Carna industrial movement, I would have told them of the interesting visit which I paid to that congested district of rocky and boggy coast, and bare, bleak islands, at Whitsuntide. The physical conditions under which the population, densely crowded on coast and islands, live, are full of discouragement. But the evidences of industrious disposition are manifest. That this can be developed, the results of the first beginnings of the industrial work, that your movement has introduced, have proved. Moreover it is under the local guidance of the trusted, sympathetic, energetic pastor of these poor people. Father Flannery thoroughly understands the truth that to help these people you must not pauperise them with alms, but guide them into a path in which they can help themselves. I was delighted to see how much he has been aided and encouraged in this truly Christian work by practical Lancashire men and women, and to find a Manchester lady—Miss May Southern—devoting herself, entirely by living a helpful life among the peasants of Carna and Kilkieran, and superintending the new industries, to the solution of this social problem.

You will be pleased with the specimens of knitting, and with the progress made in developing that industry on a real business footing.

I await, with even greater interest, the development of the fishing industry. At present it is crippled by the absence of boats fit to fish in the rough Atlantic waters, and of means for promptly carrying the fresh fish caught to Galway for the railway; also of an adequate local harbour and of any extensive system of curing and salting. All this your movement can, and will develop among a struggling and deserving people.

Yours faithfully,

UGHTRED KAY-SHUTTLEWORTH,

F. Scott, Esq., Hon. Sec.

LETTER FROM MR. JOSHUA ROWNTREE, M. P.

House of Commons,

July 29th, 1889.

DEAR MR. SOUTHERN,

I am obliged by copy of your report. I wish I could have been present at your meeting, but do not see any chance of it. I was deeply interested in seeing something of the work of your Company at Whitsuntide. Nature seems to have left Carna a chaos of rocks and water, and one marvels to find the people as plentiful as they are poor. In some of the congested localities on the West Coast the people look well nigh hopeless, but in our experience the reverse was the case here. It was most cheering every way to see the girls from the islands bringing in their knitting over the stone causeways in the evening, and to note how spotlessly clean they kept it.

You are fortunate in having so soon got the industry on to a sound commercial basis. Whatever its future developments may be I don't think the people will disappoint you. They seem to be as quick at learning as they are eager for work, and, so long as they have sufficient food and clothing, their simple, quiet lives seem distinctly to favour a high standard of handicraft skill. Mrs. Ernest Hart has clearly proved this in Donegal. Of course they require to be taught, and the best kind of all round teaching is that which the presence of an English lady, like Miss Southern, in their midst can give. They have never before had a chance of showing what they are capable of.

Important as these land industries are I think the sea fisheries along this coast will become more important still. All the facts go to show that the North Sea, which has been supplying five-sixths of the fish brought to the English markets does not now respond to the additional number of boats employed for their capture. The takes per boat are lessening, and the price of prime fish keeps rising. But as three or four of our Scarborough boats have proved for as many years, there are most fertile fishing grounds on the north-west coast of Ireland, with great supplies of fish, and practically untouched. These grounds must be fished sooner or later, and the right people to fish them are the men longing for employment along the coast. The two obstacles to be overcome are the

means, *i.e.*, deep sea fishing boats, with gear, and transit to English markets. Baltimore, as your report suggests, has shown the way through the first. Three or four boats are needed to give the enterprise a good trial, and with some skilled assistance in the first instance, there seems no reason why the men of Carna should fall short of the men of Cape Clear. The way in which they have used the money already advanced for the repairs of their old boats is very satisfactory; and a letter Father Flannery had received at the time of our visit, from a crew who had kept out to sea in their boat, determined to get a load of fish, until the mast was washed out of her, off the mouth of the Shannon, showed that the men have the needful pluck and perseverance, if they have the means provided to prove it.

The Light Railways Bill now introduced may help to solve the question of transit. But so far as I could see, a steam launch could run almost any weather from Kilkieran to Galway, and would be of use in other ways, if three or four boats were once at work. Father Flannery has most wisely laid the foundation for a new fishing industry, by sending the 20 lads to the Baltimore Training School. I hope when they are ready for sea there will be large boats ready to utilise their seamanship.

If I can be of any use to the Company in this matter will you let me know. It would be a pleasure to aid you and Father Flannery in solving one of the problems that ought to press upon us all.

I am, yours faithfully,

JOSHUA ROWNTREE.

AT THE FIRST ANNUAL MEETING of the Carna Industrial Fund,
held at the Town Hall, Manchester, on Tuesday, July 30th, 1889,

SIR H. E. ROSCOE, M.P., F.R.S., &c.,
in the Chair,

Letters regretting inability to be present, as intended, were read from Sir Ughtred Kay-Shuttleworth, Bart., M.P., Mr. Joshua Rowntree, M.P., Mr. C. E. Schwann, M.P., Professor Hopkinson, Mr. E. S. Heywood, Colonel Nolan, M.P., Sir Thomas Brady, Mr. C. T. Redington, and others.

The Report was read by the Hon. Sec. (Mr. FRED SCOTT), and the Financial Statement by the Treasurer (Mr. J. W. SOUTHERN); and it was, on the motion of the CHAIRMAN, seconded by Mr. T. C. HORSFALL,

Resolved—That the Report and Treasurer's Accounts be adopted and circulated at the discretion of the Committee.

Moved by Revd. FATHER FLANNERY, seconded by Mr. W. H. BURROW, supported by Revd. R. E. HEALEY, and

Resolved—That the following be the Committee and Officers for the ensuing year: (*See next Page.*)

Moved by Mr. J. W. SOUTHERN, seconded by Mr. R. NEWTON, and

Resolved—That this Meeting records its satisfaction with the results obtained by the Carna Industrial Fund, and commends the Connemara Industries Company, Limited, as a practical means of rendering permanent the benefits already secured.

Moved by Mr. T. ELSON, seconded by Mrs. NEWTON, and

Resolved—That the best thanks of this Meeting be given to His Worship the Mayor of Manchester for the use of his parlour for this Meeting.

The Chair having been taken by Mr. J. W. SOUTHERN, it was

Moved by PROVOST CROSKILL, seconded by Revd. J. W. WATKIN,
and

Resolved—That the best thanks of this Meeting be given to Sir Henry Roscoe for his services in the Chair, and for the help he has throughout rendered to the movement, as President of the Fund.

CARNA INDUSTRIAL FUND.

COMMITTEE:

President:

SIR HENRY E. ROSCOE, M.P., F.R.S., &c.

Treasurer:

Mr. J. W. SOUTHERN, J.P.

Hon. Sec:

Mr. FRED SCOTT, 44, John Dalton Street, Manchester.

Mr. T. C. ABBOTT.	Mr. WM. A. LEWINS.
„ COUNCILLOR BODDINGTON.	„ MARCUS LYNCH, J.P.
SIR THOS. BRADY.	„ T. C. MIDDLETON.
Mr. COUNCILLOR COPELAND.	„ GEO. MILNER, J.P.
Rev. T. J. FLANNERY.	„ M. MONGAN.
Rev. W. H. FOTHERGILL.	„ COUNCILLOR NEWTON.
THE CHEVALIER FROEHLICH.	Col. NOLAN, M.P.
Mr. T. GREGORY.	Mr. COUNCILLOR O'NEILL.
„ F. HALL.	„ J. E. PHYTHIAN.
SIR JOHN JAMES HARWOOD.	„ C. T. REDINGTON, J.P.
Mr. H. HIRSCH.	„ W. ROBINSON, J.P.
„ THOS. HODGSON.	„ C. E. SCHWANN, M.P.
Professor HOPKINSON, M.A., B.C.L.	„ C. P. SCOTT, J.P.
Mr. T. C. HORSFALL, J.P.	HIS GRACE THE ARCHBISHOP
„ COUNCILLOR HOY, J.P.	OF TUAM.
„ C. S. KEELING.	Mr. COUNCILLOR WINDSOR, J.P.

CARNA INDUSTRIAL FUND.

ANNUAL REPORT.

IN presenting their first Report to the Subscribers, the Committee of the Carna Industrial Fund deem it advisable to recapitulate the circumstances which led to the formation of the Society. In November, 1887, a special correspondent of the *Manchester Guardian*, who had been visiting the congested and poverty-stricken districts on the West Coast of Ireland, sent a graphic and pathetic description of the condition of the people at Carna, a populous but wild and sterile promontory of Galway Bay. To use the words of the correspondent, "It is indeed a singular place for any settlement of man. Quite half the surface of the ground is bare granite or Silurian schist, and the rest is bog. Lakes and inlets of the sea have made the country a perfect labyrinth. You come on water every few yards, and you never know (when the tide is high) whether the water is fresh or salt. Of course when the tide is low the seaweed tells you which is which. It seems impossible to believe that 700 families can find subsistence in such a spot, and in truth the population is the most miserably poor in Ireland. Perhaps, if we except the savages of Tierra del Fuego, they are the poorest in the whole world." The hardships endured by these people, and their patient, peaceable disposition, as described by the *Guardian* correspondent, appealed forcibly to the sympathies of many people in England, and especially in Manchester. The first indication of this sympathy was afforded on the evening of the publication of the first letter of the *Guardian's* correspondent, when Sir Henry Roscoe, in addressing a meeting at Longsight, suggested that a collection should be made on the spot for the people of Carna. This was done, and the proceeds were at once remitted to Father Flannery, the devoted Parish Priest. Amongst others whose compassion was aroused was Mrs. J. W. Southern, of Manchester. She communicated with Father Flannery (who had been introduced by the correspondent to the

English people by his familiar cognomen in Galway, "Father Tom"), and to help in relieving immediate wants sent parcels of clothing, &c., which were gratefully received. But help of a more permanent kind was obviously needed, and accordingly Mrs. Southern invited Father Tom to send her for sale on their behalf any knitted or other work that the women and girls were capable of executing. The people joyfully availed themselves of this opportunity of securing remunerative employment, and considerable quantities of stockings were forthwith sent. Mrs. Southern energetically pushed the sale of these articles, but soon found that the supply was likely to be greatly in excess of the demand, and that many of the purchases made were, owing to the very rude character of the work, practically intended to cover donations towards the relief of the Carna people. The difficulties thus encountered compelled Mrs. Southern to seek counsel and help from friends, including the present Honorary Secretary, whose advice was followed, and resulted in an important development of the simple plan originally contemplated. It was resolved to raise a fund for the purpose of providing instruction for the people in improved methods of knitting, weaving, &c., and also in industries previously unknown in the district. Before asking the public for money, however, it was determined that a visit should be paid to Carna to ascertain the prospects of success for the proposed undertaking. Accordingly at Easter, 1888, Mr. and Mrs. Southern, Mr. Fred Scott, and Mr. T. C. Abbott went to Carna, and as a result of their observations and inquiries, felt justified in calling a public meeting in Manchester in July, 1888, at which the then Mayor (Sir J. J. Harwood) presided, and Father Tom was present. Mrs. Ernest Hart, of London, whose excellent work in establishing industries in Donegal is so well known, also attended, and delivered an able and encouraging address. The appeal made was for about £200 a year for two years, to cover the cost of instructing the people in the best kinds of knitting and such other kindred work as they might prove competent to undertake. The amount

asked for was readily raised, and so the Carna Industrial Fund was established. Within three months from the date of the meeting in Manchester, the Committee were able through their President (Sir H. E. Roscoe, M.P.) to secure the co-operation of a London smallware merchant—Mr. Pattison—who undertook to employ female labour in Carna, in making knitted underclothing for children, and other articles, for which he had a large sale. He sent teachers forthwith, and within a couple of months had a large number of women and girls employed in remunerative work. At the present time he has in employment upwards of 600 females, earning from 3s. to 8s. per week. Acknowledgment ought here to be made of the sympathetic co-operation of Mrs. and Miss Sturge and Mr. Geo. Sykes, of Birmingham, who organised a sale of work in that city, which was subsequently conducted with satisfactory results by Miss May Southern. Mention should also be made of the fact that at a Bazaar at the Chorlton Town Hall, a stall was supplied exclusively for the sale of Carna work, and it proved the most attractive feature of the Bazaar. This effort helped in popularising the productions of the Carna peasants. One result of the visit to Carna at Easter, 1888, was to convince those who went that deep sea fishing offered an unlimited field of industry for the male population; and with a view to developing such an industry, Messrs. J. W. Southern and Fred Scott, at Whitsuntide, 1888, visited Baltimore, Co. Cork, to inspect the important Fishery School established there by the Rev. Father Davis, and to obtain information on the spot as to the methods pursued by him in working from a condition of things in some respects almost as unfavourable as that at Carna, up to the successful position now attained. Difficulties that involve some little delay in organising this industry at Carna have been met with, but the supply of boats, &c., is now under consideration, and it is expected that in a short time remunerative employment in fishing will be provided for many of the able-bodied men of the parish. As a tentative measure, nets and other appliances for use in existing boats, to the value of

nearly £100, have been supplied, and the results as regards take of fish have been highly encouraging. Owing, however, to difficulties of transit—Carna being 52 miles by road from Galway, and there being no regular communication between the two places by water—it is difficult to reach a market in England for the fresh fish in the available time. To minimise this hindrance, arrangements were made with a Liverpool fish merchant (Mr. Phillips) to buy all the salted mackerel and herring that might be taken. These fish, however, can only be caught in large quantities by boats capable of going long distances to sea. The fish taken by the present boats is mainly cod, and this cannot be purchased for salting at a price remunerative to the fisherman. If a market were available for it in the fresh state, good prices might be obtained, but so far what could be sold in neighbouring districts has of course realised very low prices. Still, the experience gained is valuable, as indicating what is possible under more favourable conditions. With a view to the development of the fishing industry, a man, selected by Mr. Phillips, was sent to Carna to give instruction in the use of the nets supplied, and also in the method of preparing and curing the fish (mackerel and herring). It may, too, be added that money was advanced for the supply of barrels for storing the cured fish. In anticipation of future requirements also, twenty Carna boys have been sent to Baltimore to be instructed at Father Davis' Technical School in the various branches of the fishing industry. Father Tom, during a visit to London, after attending the Manchester meeting, having, with the aid of Sir Henry Roscoe, interested the Postmaster-General in the work at Carna, obtained the privilege of sending live lobsters by parcels post to Manchester, a market was found for these fish; but the cost of transit will, it is feared, render the repetition of this experiment for the present inexpedient. The Committee deem it right, however, to acknowledge the willingness of the Postmaster-General (Mr. Raikes) to co-operate both in the transit of lobsters and in the provision of telegraphic communication with Carna, if feasible. The result of a survey for the latter purpose, specially

undertaken at the request of the Committee, unfortunately showed that the cost under present conditions would be prohibitive.

With a view to introducing improved methods of spinning and weaving—the appliances hitherto used being of a most primitive character, and the work done being consequently of the rudest description—some spinning wheels and looms of modern construction have been provided, and instruction in the use of these is now being arranged for.

Soon after operations had been commenced by the Industrial Fund, the original scheme of the Committee was completed by the formation of a limited Company—"The Connemara Industries Company, Limited"—for the purpose of conducting trading operations for those engaged in the industries established by the Industrial Fund. The nominal capital of the Company is £5,000, but the Directors only asked for £1,000 at first, and of this £672 has already been subscribed. In order to develop the fishing industry considerably more capital than was at first supposed to be necessary is required, and the Directors invite further applications for shares.

One of the first undertakings of the Company was the acquisition of a house at Kilkieran, near Carna, for the purpose of conducting their operations. At this house instruction paid for by the Industrial Fund is given by two practical teachers in such branches of work as promise remunerative employment, and as the learners become proficient they are employed in producing knitted work, crochet, &c., for the Company. The house is under the superintendence of Miss May Southern, who, with the consent of her parents, has very nobly sacrificed her own home comforts to go to this isolated and lonely place in order to help forward the good work of relieving a large population of the constant apprehension of starvation, and placing in their hands the means of attaining comfort and security. A second party visited Carna at Easter, 1889, consisting of Mr. and Mrs. Southern, Mr. T. C. Horsfall, Mr. and Mrs. R. Newton, Mr. T. Gregory, Mr. F. Smallman, and Mr. F. Scott. They had the advantage of meeting there Mr. Pattison, of London, and taking

counsel with him. Many signs of improvement in the condition of the people were observed. How far success has already been achieved is indicated by the statement made by a Poor-Law Guardian on the occasion of the last visit (Easter, 1889), viz., that "at the time of the previous visit there were upwards of 60 families in Carna in receipt of relief from the Guardians, whereas now there were not six, and of numerous debts of £4, £5, and £6, which had then been owing to him as a shopkeeper, most were now paid off."

The Committee trust that the operations of another year will show a corresponding advance, and that having got rid of their liabilities the people will be able to obtain for themselves some of those comforts in clothing and food, which are regarded in England by the industrious poor as absolutely indispensable.

The Committee desire to acknowledge with thanks the ready response made to their appeals in various directions, particularly to the Harrison Knitting Machine Company, Manchester, for a present of one of their excellent machines, and for their kindness in sending a young lady to Carna to give instruction in its use; to Mr. Jonas Craven, for acting as Honorary Solicitor in forming the Connemara Industries Company, Limited; to Mrs. Ernest Hart, for specially visiting Manchester to help in establishing the Fund, and for valuable advice and co-operation given since; to Mr. Thos. Phillips, Liverpool, for similar services; and to Father Davis, of Baltimore, for his hospitality to the representatives of the Fund, and for his sound advice.

The Committee desire also to express their obligations to the Press for valuable help given by reports of proceedings, &c., particularly to the *Manchester Guardian* for special articles from time to time, and to the *Freeman's Journal* for sending a special correspondent with each party that visited Carna.

THE CARNA INDUSTRIAL FUND.

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30th, 1889.

RECEIPTS.

	£	s.	d.
To Subscriptions	335	11	0
„ Interest allowed by Bankers	2	18	9

EXPENDITURE.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
By Expenses of Instruction and Advances for Fishing Nets, &c.	109	5	0			
<i>Less repaid per Rev. T. J. Flannery.</i>	16	0	0			
				93	5	0
„ Account Books, Stationery, Advertising, &c.	18	17	5			
„ Postages, &c.	13	14	5			
„ Clerical Assistance	10	8	0			
„ Expenses of Bazaar (part repayable)	6	0	0			
„ Expenses of Public Meeting	8	12	6			
„ Sundry payments, including Carriage, &c.	13	17	0			
„ Balance in Bank				71	9	4
				173	15	5
				£338	9	9

Audited and found correct,

WILLIAM ALDRED & CO.,

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS,

Honorary Auditors.

Manchester, July 29th, 1889.

CARNA INDUSTRIAL FUND.

LIST OF SUBSCRIBERS.

	£	s.	d.
Abbott, T. C., Esq.	10	10	0
Anonymous.....	0	18	0
A Friend, per F. Hall, Esq.....	2	2	0
Aspell, John, Esq.	2	2	0
Berry, Dr. Wm.	2	2	0
Berry, Wm., Esq.	2	0	0
Batty, Wm., Esq.	1	1	0
Boddington, H., Esq.	10	0	0
Beard, W., Esq.	1	0	0
Brady, Sir Thos.....	5	0	0
Corbishley, Rev. R.	1	0	0
Cooke, —, Esq.	5	0	0
Connolly, R. J., Esq.....	2	0	0
Conyers, J. D., Esq., per F. Hall, Esq.	2	2	0
Chadwick, Jno., Esq.....	5	0	0
Croskell, Rev. Provost	5	0	0
Crossman, General Sir Wm., M.P.	5	0	0
Clay, Councillor	5	0	0
Dodgson, J. T., per F. Hall, Esq.	1	1	0
Dolphin, M., Esq.	1	1	0
Donner, E., Esq.	10	0	0
Froehlich, Chevalier	2	2	0
Ferguson, Jno., Esq.....	0	10	0
Fothergill, Rev. W. H.....	2	2	0
Gregory, T., Esq.	2	2	0
Gaskell, Miss	2	0	0
Gaskell, Miss J. B.....	2	0	0
Gorham, Dr.	5	0	0
Gorham, W., Esq.	3	3	0
Gorham, J., Esq.	5	0	0
Gilliat, G. H., Esq.	1	1	0
Gough, Jno., Esq.	10	0	0
Grant, W., Esq.	5	0	0
Carried forward	£118	19	0

	£	s.	d.
Brought forward	118	19	0
Grant, Mrs.	1	8	6
Hall, F., Esq.	10	10	0
Hodgson, Thos., Esq.	2	2	0
Hodgson, Mrs.	2	2	0
Horsfall, T. C., Esq.	5	0	0
Hirsch, H., Esq.	2	2	0
Hynes, B., Esq.	5	0	0
Hinchliffe, Councillor	5	0	0
Harwood, Sir J. J.	5	0	0
Hager, Dr.	1	1	0
Hyland, Mrs. Rose	20	0	0
J. D. S.	0	10	0
Joyce & Co., Messrs.	5	0	0
Joyce, M., Esq.	3	3	0
Keeling, C. S., Esq.	20	0	0
Knowles, Jos., Esq.	1	0	0
Knott, H., Esq.	10	0	0
Kendal, Milne, & Co., Messrs.	5	0	0
Kolp, N., Esq.	5	0	0
Kay, Thos., Esq.	1	1	0
Lynch, Marcus, Esq.	5	0	0
Leech, Councillor	5	0	0
Mather, Jno., Esq.	1	0	0
Mongan, M., Esq.	5	0	0
McDonnell, Jas., Esq.	2	0	0
McFarlane, S., Esq.	2	2	0
Nolan, Col., M.P.,	5	0	0
Nolan, Thos., Esq.	1	1	0
Northbrook, Lord	10	0	0
Ogden, S., Esq.	3	3	0
O'Loughlin, J. J., Esq.	5	0	0
O'Callaghan, Rev. M. J.	1	0	0
O'Neill, C., Esq.	5	0	0
Owen, S. G., Esq., M. A.	1	1	0
Philips, H., Esq.	10	10	0
Pilcher, A., Esq.	0	10	6
Pye, J. P., Esq.	3	3	0
Palmer, H., Esq.	5	0	0
Carried forward	£299	9	0

	£	s.	d.
Brought forward	299	9	0
Plews, Fred. W., Esq.	0	5	0
Peacock, Richard, Esq.	20	0	0
Payne, Geo., Esq.	3	3	0
Parkinson, J. B., Esq.	1	0	0
Pownall, A. H., Esq.	1	1	0
Pilcher, Miss	1	1	0
Philips, Messrs. J. & N. & Co.	5	5	0
Robinson, —, Esq.	5	0	0
Roscoe, Lady	5	0	0
Rogers, Mrs.	25	0	0
Richardson, Son, & Cook, Messrs.	1	1	0
Rimmer, Rev. Canon.	2	2	0
Roebuck, Mrs.	5	5	0
Schwann, C. E., Esq., M.P.	21	0	0
Southern, J. W., Esq.	20	0	0
Shepherd, Miss Juliana	0	5	0
Scott, F., Esq.	2	2	0
Scott, A. D., Esq.	1	1	0
Scott, E., Esq.	1	1	0
Sowler, Col.	5	0	0
Schofield, Alderman	1	1	0
Scott, C. P., Esq.	10	0	0
Sturge, Mrs.	1	0	0
Sharples, Mrs. E.	5	0	0
Shaw, Wm., Esq.	3	3	0
Thompson, S. Chesters, Esq.	5	0	0
A Friend, per ditto	5	0	0
Watts & Sidebottom, The Misses	5	0	0
Willcox, Jas., Esq.	10	0	0
Williamson & White, Messrs.	1	1	0
Woodcock, Dr.	5	0	0
Windsor, W. T., Esq.	5	0	0
Winkworth, Mrs.	5	0	0
Warden, —, Esq.	0	10	0
Walker, —, Esq.	0	10	0
	<hr/>		
	487	6	0
Less amounts outstanding	151	15	0
	<hr/>		
	£335	11	0
	<hr/>		

The Connemara Industries Company, Limited.

Established under the Companies Acts 1862 to 1886.

CAPITAL £5,000 IN 5,000 SHARES OF £1 EACH.

FIRST ISSUE OF 1,000 SHARES.

Provisional Directors :

- Mr. COUNCILLOR J. W. SOUTHERN, J.P., Burnage Lodge,
Levenshulme. *Treasurer Carna Industrial Fund.*
- Mr. GEO. MILNER, J.P., 59A, Mosley Street, Manchester.
- Mr. COUNCILLOR R. NEWTON, York Place, Oxford Road,
Manchester.
- Mr. T. C. ABBOTT, Netherley, Bowdon.
- Mr. THOS. HODGSON, Beechfield, Bowdon.
- Mr. MARCUS LYNCH, J.P., Barna, Galway.
- Mr. C. T. REDINGTON, J.P., Kilcornan, Oranmore, Galway.

Bankers :

THE MANCHESTER & SALFORD BANK
(St. Ann's Street Branch).

Solicitors :

Messrs. CROFTON & CRAVEN, Brazennose Street, Manchester.

Auditors :

Messrs. WM. ALDRED & CO., Chartered Accountants, Essex
Street, Manchester.

Secretary :

Mr. FRED SCOTT, Chartered Accountant.

Registered Office :

44, JOHN DALTON STREET, MANCHESTER.

PROSPECTUS.

AT a meeting held in the Manchester Town Hall, under the presidency of His Worship the Mayor (Sir John J. Harwood), on July 17th, 1888, for the purpose of organising some form of permanent help to the extremely poor people of Carna, on the Connemara Coast, it was resolved to raise a sum of £200 a year for two years, to be expended in instructing the people in such work as promised to afford a means of permanent industry. This amount was almost immediately raised.

It was also resolved that a Company, with a capital of £1,000, should be formed for the following purposes:—

- a. To provide and sell to the peasants (when instructed in their use), boats for fishing, nets, lines, curing apparatus, and utensils for storing and packing cured fish.
- b. To provide improved spinning wheels, hand looms, and other apparatus for cottage industries.
- c. To purchase the products of the fishery and cottage industries and resell them in the best markets.

Experiments already conducted in each direction show that capital may be invested safely and with fair hope of reasonable return. It is proposed to purchase the necessary means already enumerated, and resell them at reasonable profit, upon the hire and purchase system, a mode which has already been followed at Baltimore, in County Cork, with very remarkable success. With a view to extension, rendered probable by the success of first efforts, it is thought best to fix the nominal capital at £5,000, with a first issue of £1,000.

Whilst the primary object of the Company is philanthropic, the methods employed will be commercial. It is believed that the money invested in this Company, will not only afford permanent employment for a population hitherto liable to periodical famine, but will also yield a profitable return to the investor.

This form to be retained by the Bankers or Secretary.

The Connemara Industries Company, Limited

To the Provisional Directors,

Gentlemen,

Please allot me.....paid up Shares of £1 each in

this Company for which I enclose herewith £ : :

Yours faithfully,

Name in full.....

Postal Address.....

Occupation.....

Date.....

Form of Receipt.

(To be given to the intending Shareholder.)

The Connemara Industries Company, Limited.

Manchester.....18

Received from.....

the sum of.....pounds the consideration

for.....fully paid Shares in the above Company

This page may be torn out, and used as an Application Form, by an intending Shareholder.

£

