
Seventh Annual Report of the Council of the Statistical Society of London

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Total		82,000	220
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LUBECK.			
<i>Lübeck</i>	Library of the City	20,000	100
BREMEN.			
<i>Bremen</i>	Library of the Cathedral and the Gymnasium	24,000	..
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<i>Hamburg</i>	Library of the City (603 Oriental MSS.)	66,000	3,000
Total		5,792,950	88,252

Seventh Annual Report of the Council of the Statistical Society of London. Session 1840-41.

THE Council having in its last Report entered so fully into an examination of the field of Statistical science, and of the mode in which the Society can most efficiently aid in its cultivation, will hardly be expected to pursue the subject farther on the present occasion. Its duty will be rather to survey what has been done during the past year towards carrying out the suggestions contained in that Report, and to shew the effect which the results are likely to have upon the influence and reputation of the Society.

The Council has first to notice the honour which has been conferred upon the Society, by His Royal Highness Prince Albert having consented to become its Patron, in compliance with the request contained in the Address, which was unanimously agreed to at the last Anniversary Meeting, and by his having inserted his name in the Fellowship Book of the Society.

The attention of the Council was directed, at an early period of last year, to the subject of the decennial census of the United Kingdom, which is to be taken in the summer of the present year; and it appointed a Committee to report upon the best mode of conducting the enumeration, and upon the nature of the information which it seemed desirable and practicable to collect. Copies of the Report which this Committee presented, were transmitted by the Council to the Secretary of State for the Home Department, to Lord J. Russell, and to Sir H. Parnell, the latter of whom had undertaken, on the part of the Government, to introduce and superintend the progress of the Census Bill. The attention of other influential Members of the Legislature was likewise called to the suggestions contained in the Report; and the result was, that a Bill which had been previously brought into the House of Com-

mons, and printed, in which it was proposed to take the census according to the imperfect system adopted on previous occasions, and by means of the same obsolete machinery, was withdrawn, and a new Bill, in which the principal recommendations of the Committee were adopted, was introduced in its stead, and subsequently passed.

When it is considered that a correct enumeration of the population forms the basis of administrative measures of the highest importance, as well as of almost every statistical comparison; that the census is only taken every tenth year; and that during the intervals there are no available means of discovering or rectifying an error in the returns, the value of the following changes, to which the Council's Report gave rise, will be duly appreciated. According to the system adopted on previous occasions, the officers employed in England were the overseers of the poor, who were for the most part avowedly incompetent to undertake a task requiring considerable intelligence, precision, and energy. The returns which they obtained from the inhabitants, were not subject to any examination for the purpose of detecting error or fraud; nor was there any security for the correctness of the abstracts which were sent to the Home Office, or any ready or certain means of correcting error when it was detected. According to the system to be adopted this year, the officers acting under the Registrar-General, whose duties in the registration of births, deaths, and marriages eminently qualify them for such a task, are to mark out districts of a convenient size, and to select a qualified enumerator for each. They are afterwards to examine, and if necessary, to amend, the returns sent in by the enumerators. The registrars will have to ascertain that no house shall have been passed over by the enumerators, and the superintendent registrars will have to take care that no district shall have been omitted, or insufficiently examined by their subordinate officers. The original Returns will be transmitted to the Census Commissioners, by whom abstracts will be prepared, on a uniform system, and with an attention to classification, which could not be expected from the overseers. The original Returns will remain in the charge of the Commissioners; so that at any future time further statements, for which the detailed returns afford the materials, may be prepared; an advantage which did not exist under the old system. The heads of inquiry will also be extended to the ages of the population, of which no account was taken in the census of 1831; and to the occupations of each individual, which were so imperfectly recorded on the same occasion as to yield no trustworthy results. Notice will also be taken of the birth-place of persons, so as to ascertain the extent of migration in each district. The same improvements will be made in the method of taking the census in Scotland and Ireland, as far as circumstances will admit, although a different class of enumerators must be employed in each of those divisions of the kingdom.

Encouraged by the successful result of its labours in this matter, the Council has turned its attention to the question of a national "Cadaastre," or a general survey and valuation of land and property throughout the kingdom. It would be a matter of surprise that Great Britain should be behind the principal countries of Europe in the execution of this important work, were not the delay in some measure attributable to a difference in the system of taxation; the proportion of revenue derived from direct imposts upon the land and immovable property being

so much greater in those countries than in the United Kingdom. Nevertheless, for many partial and temporary purposes, extensive surveys have been required throughout a large proportion of this country, and great expenses have been incurred in executing them, without the possibility of making the results useful for more general purposes, or of reducing them to one uniform scale or system. It is true that the Government has undertaken an Ordnance Survey, which is rapidly approaching completion in England and Wales ; but this was commenced upon so small a scale, one inch to a mile, (upon which for the sake of uniformity it has been continued,) that the results have been rendered wholly useless for other purposes than the illustration of the physical features and topography of the country. That this is not an exaggerated statement is proved by the fact that upon almost every occasion, on which an exact definition of boundaries has been required, it has been found necessary to execute a new survey ; as, for instance, to meet the provisions of the Reform Act, of the Municipal Boundaries Act, and of the Act for the Commutation of Tithes. A separate geological survey has also been commenced, and will be extended over the whole of the country already surveyed by the Ordnance. In the same manner separate valuations have been made at different times and for various purposes, without system or uniformity. In commencing the present survey and valuation of Ireland, the same errors have been avoided : the former having been undertaken upon the scale of six inches to a mile, which is sufficiently minute for almost every purpose ; and the latter having been calculated upon well-digested principles applicable to the whole island. Had the original survey of England and Wales been conducted upon a similar plan, the money expended upon partial inquiries would have fully reimbursed the additional outlay required for a complete survey. It is with the view of exhibiting these facts in detail, and of calling public attention to them, that the Council has appointed a Committee to collect evidence and to report upon the subject.

To another Committee has been intrusted the consideration of the means of extending the Registration of Births, Deaths, and Marriages to Scotland and Ireland. This subject is attracting considerable attention in the former country, and the Council hopes to derive great assistance from the Royal College of Physicians in Edinburgh, in devising the measures requisite in Scotland.

The Council stated in its last Report that it had forwarded copies of the Report of the Town Council of Leeds, upon the social and physical condition of the inhabitants of that place, to the Municipal Councils of the principal towns in England. From some of these, answers have been received, expressing a disposition to institute a similar inquiry at the time of the census this year. The Council will not neglect to use its influence to extend this inquiry to as many places as possible.

Among the most useful labours which the Council can undertake in the general interest of the Society, is the preparation of a classed catalogue of the books in the Library, both for the purpose of speedy reference for those Members who consult the Library, and as a means of ascertaining the books which are most wanted to supply deficiencies in the principal branches of statistical information. This laborious task has been commenced under the superintendence of Dr. Guy, who has volunteered his valuable time and services for the undertaking. The

Council takes this opportunity of again inviting the Fellows of the Society to contribute to the Library any duplicate copies of Statistical works which they may possess, and any fugitive records of prices, wages, &c., &c., which they have an opportunity of collecting; for these, which may appear of little value at present, will become useful as means of comparison in future years, and may supply to another generation of Statists the information which we often desire, but seek in vain, with reference to the past. The Council has also commenced a collection of specimens of newspapers of different countries, in order to shew the varieties which exist in the form and character of this description of periodical, and to throw light upon the progress of political feeling and literary taste at different epochs, as far as those are indicated by the contents of such publications. To this collection almost every Fellow has the means of contributing specimens of local British papers, and all are accordingly invited to do so.

The Committee on Vital Statistics has been enabled, by the kindness of James Annesley, Esq., late President of the Madras Medical Board, to prepare a Report upon the Sickness and Health of the Troops in the Madras Presidency, which was published in the Journal last summer, and which will in some degree anticipate Major Tulloch's forthcoming Report upon British Troops in the East Indies, while it furnishes the only information which exists on an extensive scale, with reference to the health and mortality of the native troops in India. The same Committee is engaged in prosecuting a similar inquiry into the sanatory state of the troops on the Tenasserim coast. The Council has sent copies of the above Report to the authorities of the East India and War Departments in this country, and to the Governors of the several Presidencies in India, and will do the same with regard to future Reports of a similar nature.

The Report of the Committee of Inquiry into the State of the Working Classes in the parishes of St. Margaret and St. John, Westminster, was laid before the Society last year, and contains a mass of valuable evidence upon a subject which is daily acquiring additional importance.

The labours of the Committee of Inquiry into the State of Education in the Metropolis, have been retarded by various causes during the past year; and the Report upon the Borough of Finsbury, which the Council had hoped to have presented to the Society in the course of last summer, has been unavoidably delayed; but it is now in an advanced state of preparation.

Among the objects which the Council proposes to prosecute during the present year, is the collection of the Statistics of Lunatic Asylums. The treatment of lunatics is a subject of high moral and medical importance, and public attention has lately been called to the merits of different rival systems. It is the part of a Society, such as this, which cannot be interested in the advocacy of any system, to hold the balance, and to weigh the facts relating to each, neither recommending nor depreciating any, but affording unbiassed evidence to those who are desirous of investigating the facts, and of judging with impartiality. In noticing this subject, the Council cannot refrain from referring to the valuable contribution which Lieut.-Colonel Sykes made to the Journal last year, of the Statistics of the Metropolitan Commission in Lunacy.

The Auditors' sheet of Receipts and Expenditure for the year 1840,

which will be laid before you, presents a more favourable balance than that for the preceding year. The liabilities of the Society at the close of the year have decreased, while the amount of stock remains undiminished. Still, the receipts have not been equal to the charge of paying off the heavy debt incurred in 1839, added to the current expenditure of 1840, which has necessarily prevented the Council from embarking in any avoidable expenses during the past year. There is, however, reason to hope that the increase of subscriptions, which will arise from the number of new Fellows who have been elected, or who are candidates for election, during the present session, and the increased receipt of arrears which may be anticipated from the steps about to be adopted by the Council for their collection, will afford the means of reducing the liabilities of the Society at the end of the present year to a mere trifle. The Council will not fail to exert its best endeavours to effect this desirable object.

Two Foreign Members have been elected during the past year, *viz.*—Dr. Holst, of Christiania, and Professor Fallati, of Tübingen; and one Corresponding Member, the Rev. John Diell, of Honolulu, in the Sandwich Islands. The Council has adopted the practice of sending, at quarterly, or half-yearly periods, a circular letter to the Foreign and Corresponding Members of the Society, in which a notice is given of the principal Statistical Publications and Parliamentary Documents that have appeared during the intervals, and of the institution of inquiries likely to produce statistical information. The Council is enabled to state, that these letters are highly valued by the parties to whom they are addressed, and are likely to lead to the receipt of similar communications relating to foreign countries.

The number of ordinary members on the books at the date of the last Report, was 416; it is at present 432; but of this number the Council has to announce that 8 will cease to belong to the Society from the date of this notification, having neglected or refused to pay up their subscriptions for a number of past years. The number of Foreign Members is 24, a vacancy having occurred during the past year by the lamented death of Professor Schlieben, of Dresden; and the number of Corresponding Members is 10.

The Council has much regret in announcing that the office of Treasurer has been resigned by Mr. Hallam, whose letter on the occasion will be read to the meeting. The constant attention of Mr. Hallam to the business and interests of the Society, in its formation and ever since its establishment, has greatly conduced to its success, and must cause the Fellows of the Society to share in the regret of the Council that he has been compelled to withdraw from one of its prominent offices.

The last subject to which the Council will call the attention of the Society is the Journal, with respect to which it deems itself justified in saying that this publication has materially tended to extend the reputation of the Society, and to promote that favourable opinion of its labours and usefulness, of which there has been abundant evidence during the past year. It has ensured the co-operation of gentlemen, who, living at a distance from London, might otherwise have taken no interest in the proceedings of the Society, or perhaps have even remained ignorant of its existence; it has attracted the contributions of gentle-

men of high reputation in their respective branches of Statistical science ; and the increased interest of its contents during the past year, the growing number and value of papers presented or promised to the Council during the present Session, together with the considerable sale of copies after the large gratuitous distribution made to the Fellows of the Society, and to the principal public institutions, afford incontestable proof of the esteem in which it is held by the public. When it is considered that the *Journal* is still in its infancy, and is wholly dependent upon voluntary contributions, the Council thinks that it will be acknowledged to hold a high place among publications of a similar character.

Before concluding, the Council would briefly notice three recent measures of the Government, two of which are the result of the improved knowledge, derived from statistical inquiries, of the evils attending the condition of the working classes ; while the third affords the most gratifying evidence of the practical utility of the investigations, which this Society is established to institute and to encourage. The first is the appointment of a Commission to inquire into the employment and condition of all children and young persons of the poorer classes, working together in numbers, who are not already under the protection of the *Factories' Act*. The Council has reason to believe that the results of this investigation will be of a highly interesting character. The second is the extension of the inquiry into the sanatory state of the working classes, to Scotland, which has been ordered in compliance with memorials from the principal towns in that country, and which promises to be efficiently carried out by the leading officers of the municipal bodies, and by a large number of zealous and intelligent members of the medical profession. The third is the introduction of a Bill to provide for the adequate drainage of buildings, and for their proper structure with regard to ventilation, freedom from damp, and means of cleanliness, which is at present under consideration in the House of Lords, and is calculated to confer the most signal benefits upon large masses of the working classes, by raising them—if needs be in spite of themselves,—out of the demoralizing and destructive state of filth and misery in which they are now generally crowded together, and by removing or lessening that depression of their physical and social condition, which constitutes one of the main obstacles to their moral advancement.

It is a happy omen for the country, that the rich and powerful have thus taken the initiative in investigating the nature and causes of the evils under which the working class labours, and of endeavouring to apply remedies to them. The bond of sympathy between the two classes will hence derive new strength. The former will soon discover how greatly they are interested in the welfare of the labouring class ; and these will cease to believe that there is no sympathy or solicitude for them in the higher ranks. The Statist cannot but view this change with satisfaction : it is to his labours chiefly that the discovery of social evils, and of their appropriate remedies, is to be attributed ; and the Council deem it a great encouragement to themselves and to the Society at large, to prosecute their labours with zeal and energy, that the fruit of their exertions, and of those of their fellow-labourers, has so soon ripened ; and that the harvest of public benefit springing from the results of their labours, promises to be so early and so abundant.

Abstract of Receipts and Expenditure, from the 1st of January to the 31st of December, 1840.

<i>January 1, 1840 :—</i>			<i>December 31, 1840 :—</i>		
	£.	s. d.		£.	s. d.
Balance in the hands of the Treasurer and Secretaries	59	15 6	Rent	105	0 0
Cash received for Arrears of Subscriptions, 2 for 1837	4	4 0	Salaries, Assistant Secretary, and Messenger	201	5 0
„ „ „ 3 „ 1838	6	6 0	Per-Centage to Collector, 1839-40.	27	15 0
„ „ „ 24 „ 1839	50	8 0	Expenses of Housekeeping and Ordinary Meetings	58	8 6
„ „ „ 24 „ 1840	646	16 0	Grant to Working Class Committee	35	0 0
Subscriptions for	41	0 0	„ „ Library Committee	20	0 0
2 Compositions	41	0 0	Stationery	22	6 2
Dividends on Stock, 2 years	44	14 0	Books and Parliamentary Papers	16	11 6
			Postages, Parcels, &c.	9	7 9
			Messrs. Clowes, for Printing	188	17 6
			Editor of Journal, 5 Quarters, including 1 for 1839	93	15 0
			Advertising the Journal	5	18 0
			Lithography	2	16 0
			Miscellaneous	13	8 6
			Balance in hand, of the Treasurer	52	14 7
			„ „ Secretaries	0	4 9
			Total	£853	3 6
Assets, December 31, 1840 :—			LIABILITIES OF THE SOCIETY, December 31, 1840 :—		
Stock in Red. 3½ per Cents., £596. 17s. cost £567 0 0	919	14 7	Messrs. Clowes, for Printing the Journal	228	10 0
„ „ Cons. 3 per Cents., £328. 15s. 4d. „ 300 0 0	919	14 7	„ „ Miscellaneous Printing	29	8 0
Cash Balance	52	14 7	„ „ Hansard, for Parliamentary Papers	8	2 0
			„ „ Knight, for Books	7	9 9
			„ „ Blackwood, „	1	4 0
			* The entries at the foot, refer to the appropriation of two Compositions, amounting to 41l. by the Council, in lieu of funding the same, and with drawing the sum of 43l., as the annual contribution to the income from 43 funded compositions.		
			* Deferred Investment on two Compositions for 1840		
			Signed { W. H. LLOYD, JOSEPH FLETCHER, HENRY REEVE. } Auditors.		
			February 7, 1841.		
			Total Due to the Society £236 14 3		
			Contribution of £1 per annum on 43 Compositions 43 0 0		