

THE OLD SAD STORY.

Distress of the Saddest Form Exists in the West of Ireland.

Maude Gonne Visits the Scenes of Sorrow and Slavery and Unmasks the Hollowness of the Relief Works System.

Famishing Humanity Barely Clad, Imploring for Help, is the Hourly Spectacle that Greets the Gaze in the Old Land—Women Employed to Carry Stones—A Shilling a Day is the Price Put Upon the Labor of Irishwomen—The Methods of Help of the Board of Guardians Proved to be a Farce.

The following harrowing picture of the sad condition of affairs in many districts in Ireland is contributed by Maude Gonne to the Irish World. It is a terrible commentary on British misrule in the Old Land, in this the closing days of a century of which the boast is made that unrivalled progress in every phase of development for the betterment of humanity has been achieved. This patriotic Irishwoman, writing from Belmullet, Mayo, says:

How few people realize what the distress in the West really means! If they did we should not have so much indifference. As we walk from experience they gain a significance to him, so the majority of us, who fortunately have never experienced famine, though familiar with the word, fail to realize its full meaning and the awful sum of human misery it contains. I know I did not when, last week, I really mounted the car at Ballina for the forty-mile drive into Belmullet. And now, seated comfortably in the train, wrapped in furs, with a good hot warmer, and looking out on the green fields on my way back to Dublin, the remembrance of those crowds of famishing creatures, whose ragged garments sluttering in the wild Atlantic wind scarcely hid their gaunt limbs, and whose blue lips implored help, seem already to me like some terrible night mare vision. It is so hard to keep fixed in our mind suffering when we no longer see it, so, for if we always remembered, there would be no more joy, no more peace, no more happiness in life. But while these scenes are still fresh in my mind, I want to write them down as faithfully as I can, for these starving peasants of the West are children of Ireland, and it will be a disgrace to us if we leave them to their fate, or to the tender mercies of the paternal English Government.

Last year the potato crop in the West was a partial failure, but there was no very acute distress, and a little relief judiciously given in the way of small loans to the people to buy good seed potatoes would have prevented this year's famine. The English Government was appealed to on all sides to do this, but it turned a deaf ear, and in many districts the people only sowed half the necessary quantity of seed, and that of an inferior and tainted quality, with the result that on the Western seaboard of Ireland we are face to face with the most serious famine we have had since 1879.

England Rules By Famine, and she is actually preparing one for next year by her present system of relief work. The spring is the time when it is absolutely necessary that the people should work on their land to prepare it for the new crops, instead of which thousands of unfortunate men and women are working for starvation wages, varying from half a crown to six shillings a week, according to the work done but to the size of each man's family, from 8 o'clock in the morning till 5 o'clock in the evening, on roads that are not needed and which will soon be allowed to return to the bog again, as in the case of roads which were pointed out to me as having been made during the last distress year. To reach the works the people have often to walk from five to seven miles.

'Ah,' said one poor fellow, bitterly, as he piled seeds into a ditch, 'it is hard to have to work here making a fence to prevent a runaway horse that will never come from going into the bog. Horses don't run away in Erris; they are too starved; and all the while my own little holding is undug, and the children too young, and the wife too weak, to dig it. What will become of us next year? We shall be still worse off. It were almost better to die at once and be done with suffering.'

On those same Government relief works I saw six

Women Employed Carrying Stones. Several of them had come from a village seven miles away; two were young girls of sixteen and seventeen, one of whom looked very ill; she coughed terribly and seemed hardly able to drag herself along. 'Father is dead,' she said. 'Mother is ill; we are eight in family. I am earning six shillings a week.' In answer to my question what she would have for dinner, she drew from her pocket a small piece of Indian meal bread. 'Ah, lady,' said a tall young fellow standing near, 'try and get them to do away with the hour for dinner, and instead let us go home an hour earlier;

we have none of us any dinner; five minutes is more than enough time to eat all we have, and during that dinner hour we have to keep walking up and down to keep warm in us.' They all acquiesced in this. 'What are you thinking of?' I asked of a small, pale woman, standing a little apart, with a curious strained look in her sea-colored Celtic eyes. She started. 'I was thinking of the young ones,' she answered. 'I fear something may happen to them; I am a widow; they are all alone.' 'How many children have you?' I asked. 'Five; the eldest is seven. I live four miles away over the mountain yonder. I gave them bread before I started, and I lit the fire. It is that I am afraid of; but it was so cold. 'Poor, anxious mother! Work away on that bog road! Go on carrying stones up from the shore! for the English Government says it would be demoralizing to you to receive those five shillings a week and stay at home and tend your little ones!'

Walking Fourteen Miles For Work. A man fainted at the works yesterday. I had to have him carried home by four men," said the ganger to me. "I fear that poor fellow over there will do the same," and he pointed to a man leaning against the ditch fence. 'He is very old to walk so far; he came from a village seven miles away.' 'I had to help him along to day, or he never would have got here,' said another man. I went up to the old man. He did not speak, but only shook his head, covered with thin white hair; his face was leaden colored; his eyes blood shot, and his lips violet. He is earning six shillings a week. His family consists of eleven persons. I have never seen anything more cruel or more useless than the Government relief works. In Erris to-day there are practically no seed potatoes fit for sowing, and I would suggest to the charitable committees who are collecting funds for the distress, that money could not be more wisely employed than in supplying good seed to the people.

It would give them a chance next year of being able to live without an appeal to charity or Government assistance. It may be objected that the Government has already made provisions in this respect. Let us consider a moment the working of this official charity. The Government advanced the Board of Guardians the money necessary to buy the seeds. They may only be bought from specified places, such as the County Antrim, or still oftener, Scotland, where they are supposed to be free from disease. As for the Scotch potatoes, we find that the

Canny Scotch Merchants buy up all the Irish potatoes they can, without bothering their heads about diseased districts, ship them over to Scotland, and sell them at a high price to the Irish Poor Law Guardians as Scotch potatoes. The Scotchmen naturally pay themselves for the trouble of buying the potatoes and their transport, with the result that for what cost originally in the Irish market three shillings and sixpence or four shillings a hundred-weight the Guardians pay in Scotland four shillings, and by the time they reach the Belmullet Union, for example, and after being well soaked in sea water are thrown on the Quay, and from there carted to the workhouse, where they are distributed under the care of well paid officials, they cost the unfortunate poor, whom they are intended to benefit, eight shillings, and even nine shillings a hundred-weight. The people have two years in which to pay for them.

The last official charity of this kind was given three years ago, when there had been a partial failure of the potato crop. The people were told they would get a benefit and availed themselves largely of the opportunity, but the sea-soaked, bruised potatoes gave a very bad return, and it was hard to pay the debt incurred for them. This year, owing to the distress, the finances of the Belmullet Union got very low, and by way of helping them, the local (landlord) Government Board appointed two vice-guardians (an extra cost on the Union of £500). These gentlemen, hearing that there was money still due on the last distribution of Government seed, ordered Mr. Boyle, the rate collector, on pain of dismissal, to bring them £100 a week seed money.

The Rate Collector went around to the cabins of the starving peasants and demanded the debt they owed to the great British Government, but blood cannot be got from a stone, so Mr. Boyle had to summon the assistance of the bailiff and police, and go around and seize on the few cows that remained in this famine stricken district. The cows were so thin that they did not sell for much, and I fear the English Government is still a few pounds short on the seed money. But it must be some satisfaction for it to know that at least the little children of Erris are not indulging in the luxury of milk with their scanty Indian corn strabout, and so this generous Government has this year again renewed this same noble offer, but the people are so unaccountably wrong headed that, though without seed potatoes, they refuse the English

The practical and economical way of helping the people would be to give them small loans and allow them to buy seed for themselves. This would do away with a numerous band of costly officials and much jobbery. The peasants are intelligent enough to buy seed and good potatoes and choose those which they know from experience would suit their own land. In many of the counties neighboring on the congested districts there are large areas unaffected by the blight, and farmers who have used the spraying machines say they have a very fair crop; it would be easy

Constipation Causes fully half the sickness in the world. It retains the digested food too long in the bowels and produces biliousness, torpid liver, indigestion, bad taste, coated tongue, sick headache, insomnia, etc. Hood's Pills cure constipation and all its results, easily and thoroughly. 25c. All druggists. Prepared by C. I. Hood & Co., Lowell, Mass. The only Pills to take with Hood's Sarsaparilla.

for the people to buy their seed from these markets. This is the plan advocated by nearly all the Poor Law Guardians and farmers in Mayo with whom I had an opportunity of speaking. They say it would be far less costly to the rates and far more beneficial to the people. But the good of the Irish people in the last of all considerations to the government of Her Gracious Majesty Victoria.

CORRESPONDENCE.

A GROSS MISREPRESENTATION.

To the Editor of the TRUE WITNESS: Sir,—La Patrie discusses William Redmond's proposition for a coalition between France and Ireland, as follows: "We believe it to be our duty to put the newspapers in France on their guard against the Irish element and its tendencies, especially in the United States. The Irish, in their clergy, as well as in their politics, are the worst enemies of our beautiful French language, and our national influence in the American Republic, and it is probably the same elsewhere."

To the Irish Catholics living in the United States Mr. Tarte's views lack only one element—truthfulness. If he is as far from being a statesman as he is from telling the truth, the country that pays him money for alleged services has the worst end of the bargain. He owes it to the Irish Catholics of Montreal to prove his statements. Is he a sane man? The writer has lived in St. Louis, Missouri, for thirty-five years, where there is a large French population, and there is much love and respect existing between the French and Irish Catholics; neither Irish Catholic priests nor people interfere with the influence of the French people in the American Republic. The educated Irish speak French.

AN IRISH CATHOLIC OF THE UNITED STATES. Town of St. Paul, April 9, 1898.

PLEA FOR THE SAAGA.

To the Editor of the TRUE WITNESS:

SIR—As the voice of the Irish population of our city I would ask space in your columns to address, in a particular manner, the young Irishmen of our city, in the interest of the Shamrock Amateur Athletic Association. Perhaps no association of our countrymen in Montreal and district offers a better means of bringing together all the elements of our race, under one head, and, therefore, presenting that solid front which will win for the Association and its members the power and influence which is their right. And in extending to the younger generation of our people a cordial invitation to come and be of us, it would be well to point out to them the many advantages which would at once accrue to them as members of our Association. They would at once be placed in possession of a Club house and grounds, second to none in our Dominion, placed unrestrictedly in our hands, this generosity of citizens of our city, who subscribed so nobly to our bazaar and tombola when the question of a home for the Association was first mooted.

In this clubhouse and games of all kinds can be indulged in to the full extent of the desire of the members. A large, well-lighted hall and stage offers to those whose instincts lead them to the lighter forms of recreation all the advantages required; while our large field enables one to play any game of skill and endurance that the tastes of our more athletic members may desire. And the latter, when tired with the exertions of their striving for the mastery on the field, can return to the well appointed dressing-rooms provided, and before donning their street clothing the cool streams of a shower bath offer de lightful refreshment and ease.

The clubhouse, the whole year round, is at the disposal of members for any healthful, innocent purpose they may have in view. And, to the fathers of our young men, I would say, have no fear in allowing your boys to avail themselves of the privileges of membership in the Association, as one of the first principles animating the executive is the maintenance of good order in the club house and grounds.

Up to now, the members of our lacrosse team have occupied our grounds for three days each week, in what is known as the lacrosse season, but the directorate are willing and ready to encourage any other game that the members may desire, and has in view the formation of a football team to compete next fall in a short time, to place our colors in the front rank in this popular game. In the winter, hockey has taken up our attention, and, for a comparatively new venture, we can point with pride to the record of our team, which has always kept the big teams in the senior league guessing a good deal.

In the winter season there is no excuse for our club house being kept idle, as a first class car service, on two lines, can bring members to the club house, to use it for purposes of concerts, euchre parties, games of basket ball, etc., etc.

Now, Mr. Editor, what we wish is, that each Irish family in our city should have at least one representative in our association—the fee being a trifling matter, only \$1 per year, and no initiation fee to pay. We must have in Montreal 30,000 to 40,000 of an Irish population. Well, allowing 5 to each family, that would give us 6,000 young Irishmen who should belong to us. Can you imagine the power and influence an association of 6,000 young Irishmen could wield? Can you imagine the good that would come to the race, the respect and esteem in which they would be held. Is it possible to bring them together? I do not think it impossible, so here is a hearty invitation to the growing young Irish generation of our city to come and join our ranks, and help themselves and the cause of honest sport, and place our chosen athletes, and colors where they properly belong, that is in the championship of whatever game they play.

SHAMROCK.

ADVICE TO IRISH FARMERS.

Rev. Father Finlay, S.J., Delivers a Practical Address.

Its Keypnote Was the Advantages to be Derived from Co-operation in the Direction of Acquiring the Best Modern Methods of Working—Interesting Statistics of the Progress Made by Co-operative Societies—Denmark One of the Strongest Competitors of Ireland in the English Markets for Certain Lines of Produce—The Cause Explained in a Business-like Manner.

The Irish farmers are at last being aroused to a proper appreciation of the importance and value of introducing co-operation and strictly business methods into their industry. In England they have the best markets in the world for their produce—a market which is rendered all the more profitable from the fact that it lies at their very doors, so to speak. For many years, however, Denmark and other countries, by improved methods, and by co-operation, have been obtaining for their farm produce in England prices higher than those obtained by the Irish farmers for theirs, although the soil of Ireland is more fertile and the climate better adapted to the production of the same commodities.

A movement having for its object the placing of the Irish farmer upon an equality with his Continental competitor along the lines indicated has been on foot; and its most ardent supporter is the Rev. Father Finlay, S.J., one of the greatest Irish pulpits of the present day. On the occasion of the formation of one of these Irish farmer co-operative societies in North York, he delivered an able and practical address, the following report of which we take from the Leinster Leader:

Father Finlay's Address.

Rev. F. A. Finlay, S.J., opened his address by explaining at length what had been done for the farmers of foreign countries by co-operation, assisted by the state, and dwelt on the necessity of getting Irish produce on the markets in the best possible condition, so that it would be in a position to compete with its rivals. What with up-to-date machinery and skill, foreigners could place their produce on the English markets at practically less cost than Irish farmers could. Take, said he, the case of corn. It was not long since the wheat coming from New York to England, not only charged no freight for the carriage of corn, but paid one farthing per barrel for the privilege of using the corn as ballast. It was agreed that if the Irish farmer was to live at all, if he meant to live in any condition of prosperity above the grade of pauper, he should be taught the methods employed by farmers of other countries. Now it was quite out of the question that the small farmer of Ireland could procure for himself the highly useful but costly machinery by which the farmers of Canada, of the United States, of New Zealand or of Australia work up their products for the home markets. But what a poor man could not do by himself, a number of poor men together could. The wealth of a hundred farmers put together was a very considerable thing, whereas the wealth of one or two was insignificant. One farmer could not procure this machinery, this skill or this knowledge, but one hundred, by putting all their resources together, could procure it for the general body, and when the general body possessed the machinery that would do the work for the whole of them, it was just as useful for every man in the community as if he were the owner of it himself. That was the idea of co-operation. They might ask, perhaps, how this principle could be applied to North Kildare. In each district the application was different. If they looked over the continent of Europe, they would find the farmers had been highly educated, and where they were exceedingly enlightened men as far as their industries were concerned, the principle applied according to their various needs. In Denmark, where dairying was the chief industry, the farmers put their heads together, clubbed their resources, bought the best machinery for their creameries, and sent their butter to the English markets in such a state as to

DRIVE OUT THE IRISH PRODUCT, which is infinitely superior as far as its natural qualities went. They should remember that the soil of Denmark was very much poorer than that of Ireland. The climate was not so good, but nevertheless Danish butter fetched 2d or 3d a pound more than Irish in the English markets. To show the reputation in which Danish butter is held in England the speaker said that when the Cork farmers had a supply of butter to dispose of it was sold as Danish. That country of Denmark was at the beginning of the century almost the poorest in Europe. At the present moment they had absolutely no manufactures. The Danes were an entirely agricultural and dairying people, yet by the general adoption of the principle of co-operation they had raised themselves from that condition of poverty to be, next to the English, the richest in Europe, man for man. What the Danes could do the Irish by a little effort and the applica-

tion of brains could do also. It might be said that they had no question of rent to deal with, but they had, and a bigger question than the people of Ireland. Nevertheless, with that burden also on their shoulders, they had arranged to make themselves the richest people in Europe after the English, and put on the markets of the world the best agricultural products to be had. The plan they had followed was what the organizers of the co-operative movement had been suggesting to the people of this country, that instead of each man working for himself with the miserable resources which an individual could have, they should work together, club their resources, and procure for the common benefit the best appliances of science, and the most highly expert skill that money could obtain. Their advice had been followed over a great part of Ireland. In the dairying districts particularly the suggestions were taken up at the start, and applied with great earnestness and success. At the present moment they had in Ireland 220 fully equipped co-operative societies with a membership of about 40,000 farmers. The organization had been at work about seven or eight years, and

THE MOVEMENT HAD SPREAD SO RAPIDLY that its resources were practically exhausted, overtaxed, and unable to keep up with progress of co-operation. He instanced the case of the province of Ulster, the farmers of which he said were for a long time in doubt as to the benefits accruing from co-operation, but where the movement was now being taken up with great vigour. The advantages of co-operation, his hearers might say, were not so apparent to them in a district where the dairying industry was on a rather small scale. There was an advantage, he answered, in other departments as well as dairying from combining their resources. A body of farmers were not only producers, that was to say agriculturists and dairymen, but they were also purchasers of farm commodities on a very large scale, and he dared say that it would have occurred to many of those present that there were

Continued on Page 8, vcu.

THE CELEBRATED ORATOR HENRY AUSTIN ADAMS, M.A. Will lecture in KARN MUSIC HALL, St. Catherine Street, On Tuesday Evening, April 19th, at Eight o'clock. Subject: The Layman and the World. Do not miss this opportunity of listening to the most fascinating of speakers. Tickets, 25c. Reserved Seat, 50c. For Sale at D. A. J. Sullivan & Co., 150 Notre Dame Street.

The Wall Paper King... NOT CANADA. C. B. SCANTLEBURY. Belleville, Kingston, Winnipeg. Sample Book of Choice Wall Paper for Bedrooms, Bathrooms, Halls, Stairs, and our booklet, "How to Paper a Room" sent free to any address. Write a Postal, of the same name, and mention what prices you expect to pay, the rooms you wish to paper, and where you saw this advertisement. We pay express charges. Mail order Department at Belleville, Ont. Address all communications there.

THE Best Yet Offered IN REED ROCKERS \$4.95 Only. Regular value \$8.75. We have 5 different patterns equally as good which we will close out at \$4.95 each. Special values in all lines of Furniture for the balance of this month. We will store your purchases free till wanted.

RENAUD, KING & PATTERSON, 652 Craig Street. THE LARGEST ESTABLISHMENT MANUFACTURING CHURCH BELLS CHIMES IN THE WORLD. SEND FOR PRICE AND CATALOGUE. MORGAN BELL FOUNDRY, BALTIMORE, MD.

FOR SALE FOR THE MILLION. Kindling \$2.00; Cut Maple \$2.50; Tamarac blocks \$1.75; Mill blocks, stove lengths, \$1.50. Send for Price and Catalogue. Phone 9088.

THOMAS LIGGET'S Showing of Carpets is considered as exceeding all former productions. The Imperial Axminster and Geneva Axminster are marvels of beauty. Also, Russian Velvet Carpets, Royal Wilton Carpets, Royal Axminster Carpets, Tapestry and Kidderminster. THOMAS LIGGET, 1884 Notre Dame, 210 St. Catherine St., Montreal. 175 to 179 Sparks Street, Ottawa.

MONTREAL CITY & DISTRICT SAVINGS BANK The Annual General Meeting of the Stockholders of this Bank will be held at its office, St. James Street, on TUESDAY, 3rd MAY next, at 1 o'clock P.M., for the reception of the Annual Report and Statements and the election of Directors. By order of the Board, H. Y. BARBEAU, Manager, Montreal, April 14, 1898.

REED'S REFRIGERATORS! At 30 p.c. Discount. All New and Perfect, but we want the room. Never so low before. Never will be again. Buy now if you want one. GEO. W. REED & CO., 783 & 785 Craig Street, MONTREAL.

KINDLING WOOD. SOFT, \$1.50 per load. MIXED, \$1.75 per load. HARD, \$2.00 per load. Guaranteed the best value in the City. Order early by Phone No. 26. RICAUD MILLING CO., 652 ST. PALL STREET.

THE QUICKEST, MOST DIRECT AND POPULAR ROUTE TO THE KLONDYKE AND YUKON GOLD FIELDS. Check of several routes and impartial information given. Full particulars as to sailing of all steamers from P. O. Call Street for Alaska, and accommodation received to obtain them. Through passenger and freight rates noted. Alaska pamphlets and maps, containing full information as to the Yukon district, furnished on application to any Grand Trunk Agent.

CITY TICKET OFFICE 137 ST. JAMES STREET, And Bonaventure Station.

BRODIE & HARVIE'S PANCAKE FLOUR For PANCAKES, MUFFINS, Etc. Ask your Grocer for it. 3 lbs and 6 lbs packages.

PROVINCE OF QUEBEC, DISTRICT OF MONTREAL, SUPERIOR COURT, No. 1633. Dame Mary Ann Jackson, of the City and District of Montreal, wife common to J. Property of Thomas B. Leves, of the same place, Plaintiff, and duly authorized, has taken action in separation as to property against her said husband. Montreal, 15 March, 1898. GEOFFREY DORON & ALLAN, Attorneys for Plaintiff.

HOME WORK FAMILIES. We want the services of a number of families to do work for us at home, whole or spare time. The work we send our workers is quickly and easily done, and returned by parcel post as finished. Pay \$2 to \$3 a week. For particulars, ready to commence send name and address. This STANDARD SUPPLY CO., LONDON, ONT.

CANADA, Province of Quebec, District of Montreal—Superior Court—No. 1618—Dame Eva Gertrude Mann, of the City and District of Montreal, wife of John Augustine Mann, of the same place, Plaintiff, vs. the said John Augustine Mann, Defendant. An action in separation as to property has been instituted in this case. CHARLES A. DUCLOS, Attorney for Plaintiff. Montreal, 12th March, 1898. 35-5

AMERICAN AND EUROPEAN TOURS Allan, Dominion and Beaver Lines. Quebec Steamship Co.; ALL LINES FROM NEW YORK To Europe, - Bermuda, - West Indies, Florida, etc. COOK'S TOURS. W. H. CLANBY, ASST. GRAND TRUNK TICKET OFFICE, 137 St. James Street

SPECIALTIES OF GRAY'S PHARMACY FOR THE HAIR: CASTOR FLUID..... 25 cents FOR THE TEETH: SAPONACEO'S DENTIFRICE..... 25 cents FOR THE SKIN: WHITE ROSE LANOLIN CREAM, 25 cts HENRY R. GRAY, Pharmaceutical Chemist 122 St. Lawrence East Street N. B.—Physicians' Prescriptions prepared with care and promptly forwarded to all parts of the city. Our subscribers are particularly requested to note the advertisements in The True Witness, and when making purchases, mention the paper