

An English Evil.

Horrible State of Affairs Revealed in Report on Poor Laws.

It has often been said of British poor laws that they are the worst on earth, but that assertion is far insufficient to adequately express the real weakness of the provision made in England for poor relief. A Royal Commission appointed to investigate Poor Laws recently made public its report in a volume of 1235 pages, which represents the work of eighteen men and women during a period of three years. The effect of the report is a general condemnation of the present system. Two reports were presented, a majority and a minority one, but both agreed on the abolition of the general workhouse and the boards of guardians; separate treatment for the aged, the weak, the able-bodied unemployed and the loafer; detention of vagrants in colonies; the institution of labor exchanges, and the discouraging or prevention of boy labor. The majority wish to remodel and the minority to revolutionize the spirit and working of the present system. The former apparently desire to contract and the latter to expand the scope of governmental action and the area of individual independence upon public support, but both agree as to the defects of the present system, and the immediate attention the reports have received should make it certain that those defects shall be the object of speedy reform.

EVILS OF THE SYSTEM.

"The evils of the general mixed workhouse," says the report, and it must be remembered that all British workhouses are general and mixed, "remain to-day very much what they were at the beginning of the nineteenth century." It is admitted that the workhouses of to-day are not places of cruelty, and that their 250,000 inmates are not subjected to deliberate ill-treatment, but whether new or old, urban or rural, large or small, they all exhibit the same inherent defects. Their dominant note is their abominable promiscuity. There is no classification of inmates, and there is no effective keeping of the sexes apart. The bad characters and the good are herded promiscuously together, with the inevitable evil results. The following passage from the report may seem too horrible to be true, but no shadow of doubt can rest upon a word of it: "There are no separate bedrooms. We have found respectable old women annoyed by day and by night by the presence of noisy and dirty imbeciles. Idiots who are physically offensive or mischievous or so noisy as to create a disturbance by day and by night with their howls are often found in the workhouse mixing with others, both in the sick wards and in the body of the home. We have ourselves seen in one large workhouse pregnant women who have come to be confined compelled to associate day and night and to work side by side with half-witted imbeciles and women so physically deformed as to be positively repulsive to look upon. In the smaller country workhouses though the promiscuity is numerically less extensive and in some respects of less repulsive character, the very smallness of the numbers makes any segregation of classes even more impracticable than in the larger establishments. A large proportion of these workhouses have, for instance, no separate sick ward for children, and in spite of the ravages of measles, etc., not even a quarantine ward for the constant stream of newcomers.

INCOMPETENT OFFICIALS.

Unspeakingly bad as must be the results of throwing together such a mixture of humanity, they are made still worse by the utter unsuitability and complete inefficiency of the officials in charge. The officials themselves are not blamed by the commissioners. The fault is that of the system which places the management of institutions containing hundreds or even thousands of inmates in the hands of a promoted porter or ex-labor master and the wife whom he may have happened to marry. "And," says the report, "the very mixture of functions—the impossibility of attaining technical excellence, or, indeed, of achieving any recognizable success, in any of them has, we have repeatedly noticed, a subtle deteriorating effect upon the persons appointed."

The inevitable result is said to be the development among the officials of complete indifference to suffering they cannot alleviate, to ignorance which they cannot enlighten, to virtue which they cannot encourage, to indolence which they cannot correct, to vice which they cannot punish. The one attribute in an inmate which they appreciate is instant obedience passing into servility. Outdoor relief is badly administered. "Slipshod inquiry and soothing dolo" seems to be the leading feature of each district, and no distinction is made between honest poverty and the worst forms of blackguardism. The darkest feature of all is the condition of the 170,000 children who are supported by means of this outdoor relief.

The report divides the mothers of these children into four classes: the first, good; the second, mediocre; the third, slovenly and slipshod; the fourth, the really bad, people of wilful neglect, sometimes drunkards or of immoral character, unfit to have the charge of

children." In England and Wales alone there are more than 30,000 children in the third class and 20,000 in the fourth, where the home is demonstrably wholly unfit for children. One of the appalling chapters in the report deals with birth and infancy. The number of children born in workhouses probably exceeds 15,000 a year. Of these it is estimated that about 30 per cent. are legitimate and 70 per cent illegitimate.

CRIMES AGAINST CHILDREN.

The report deals with specific instances of careless—may criminal—methods. "The whole nursery," says one woman guardian, "has often been found under the charge of a person actually certified as of unsound mind, the bottles sour, the babies wet, cold and dirty." Even in the great workhouse palaces of London the nursery infants "seldom or never got into the open air." The nurseries are perhaps on the fourth or fifth story of some gigantic building, and there is no one to take the children for an airing. In some of these workhouses it was "frankly admitted that the babies never left their own quarters."

Among the greatest scandals in connection with the present British poor law is the freedom with which the incorrigible loafer of either sex may take advantage of it. Any workshy loafer, soaked in drink and crime, may use the workhouse as a hotel whenever he cares to. The tasks are light, no questions are asked, he receives precisely the same treatment as the honest and respectable poor. With him he may take his children, the "in and out" children, who come and go "like buckets on a dredging machine, passing in and out of all sorts of horrible places and scenes of vice."

Parents unhappily have the right to take their children with them when they leave the workhouse, though only too often these parents are the very scum of the earth. The following passage from the report exemplifies the kind of thing that is happening every day: "The man or woman may take the children to a succession of casual wards or the lowest common lodging houses. There may be no prospect whatever of an honest livelihood or a decent home. The parents may go out with the intention of using the children, half clad and blue with cold, as a means of begging from the soft-hearted; or they may go out simply to enjoy a day's liberty from workhouse restrictions and find the children only encumbrances, to be neglected and half starved. One family of children at Wandsworth used to be taken to the common in rain or shine and left there without food for the day. Another family of children used to go out with their father and follow him from one public house to another till evening, when he would hand them his workhouse admission order and send them back. As the porter would not admit them without their father they would wait about until late, and then find a policeman, who would take them to the gates and have them admitted. The father would return later when the public houses were closed."

Judge Lindsey.

The Religion of the Founder of the Juvenile Court.

At different times we have noted items in some of the Catholic papers stating that Judge Lindsey, of Denver, was a Catholic. Judge Ben B. Lindsey has a national reputation in connection with the Juvenile Court idea. If he were a Catholic, we should be glad to include him in our gallery of "Who's Who Among American Catholics," but the following letter from Judge Lindsey, under date of March 9th, will indicate that he is not a Catholic. The letter, however, contains some interesting details as to the judge's religious heredity:

(To the Editor.) Owing to much work, my correspondence is behind, but I received your kind letter and a copy of The Citizen. You certainly have a splendid paper. I have had a rather peculiar religious experience. My father was an Episcopalian and a convert before he died to the Catholic Church. My mother was a very devout Methodist. All of my people were Protestant. I was baptized in the Catholic Church, but when I was a small boy I was sent to live with my Protestant relatives. My father died, and the result was that I drifted very much religiously, and while I have a deep reverence for the Catholic Church, and have been claimed by a great many because of my father's experience, I cannot say that I am a Catholic. Many of my best friends, however, are the Catholic clergy and people of Denver, who have been perhaps the staunch-

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The Holy Week.

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THE PASSION.

The Passion is read four times during Holy Week: on Palm Sunday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, each time according to a different Evangelist. The account of Saint John is appropriate to Good Friday, since he was present at the Crucifixion. The ancient mode of reciting tragedy was by one, or two, or more persons who related the history in solemn chant. The way in which the Passion is sung to-day is a remnant of this ancient solemnity. The historical part is sung by one voice, a baritone; that which is said by the different persons concerned, by a tenor; the words spoken by the crowd is chanted by the choir, and the words of our Lord are sung by a bass voice. During the adoration of the Cross the hymns sung are called Improperia, or reproaches, which enumerate the ingratitude of the Jewish people. The reproaches are interspersed with the Trisagion, which is sung in Latin and Greek: "Holy God! Holy and Strong God! Holy and Immortal God! Have mercy on us!" Read the beautiful hymns of Passion-tide, "Pange Lingua Gloriosi," and "Vexilla Regis"; "Stabat Mater."

There is no Mass said on Good Friday. The Host which was consecrated on Holy Thursday is brought back to the altar and consumed by the priest. The ceremony is called the "Mass of the Presanctified." Holy Saturday—the blessing of the new fire takes place. From this fire all the lamps and lights of the Church are lighted. The triple candle signifies the Holy Trinity of whom the Second Person came into the world as the Light from Heaven. The priest in lighting this candle sings three times Lumen Christi—the Light of Christ. The Paschal candle represents Christ. In the candle there are five openings in which five nails of wax, containing five grains of incense, are put, which signify the wounds of our Lord. During the singing of the beautiful canticle Exultet, the paschal candle is lighted from the triple candle. Formerly at the end of the paschal time the remnant of the paschal candle was divided into small pieces into which the figure of a paschal lamb was pressed, an emblem of the Saviour, called Agnus Dei. The Holy Father blesses wax intended for this purpose on Holy Saturday.

The Mass of Holy Saturday in anticipation of Easter Sunday is joyous; the bells are heard, the Gloria is sung—as our Lord's resurrection from the grave seems like a new birth. Only a few of the beautiful ceremonies of Holy Week can be given. Study them carefully from your Holy Week Book or Missal.

est supporters I have had, since one of the fights I made in the legislature was for a bill requiring dependent children of Catholic parents to be put in homes of people who were Catholics. With kindest regards, I am, sincerely yours, Ben. B. Lindsey.—Catholic Citizen, Milwaukee.

He Wanted Heroes.

In a sermon preached at Maline in 1863, Mgr. Dupanloup, the celebrated Bishop of Orleans, said: "Atheistic philosophers, agnostic followers of Voltaire and critics, I ask you for the sake of suffering humanity, to publish this advertisement on the fourth page of your journal: "Wanted—500,000 heroes of both sexes, to care for the sick, to instruct neglected and troublesome children, on condition that these heroes and heroines keep themselves chaste, patient, forbearing, working ten hours a day, and receiving in return to supplement their salary, injuries and calumnies while they deny themselves even innocent pleasures. "Print this in your papers; I will pay for the advertisement. You laugh at me. Not without reason, perhaps. And yet you are wrong. This army exists, and it is sublime. Only one Master could have created it and inspired it; He raised it. He recruits it. He arms it and has commanded it for twenty centuries. . . and it asks no reward save the smile and benediction of its Master, our Lord Jesus Christ. It is not noble, this phalanx . . ."

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praying, serving, comforting, teaching without cessation or rest, their only thought the smile and benediction of their Master, while the world slanders and curses them?

The Fur Traders.

(Continued from Page 1.)

AN HISTORIC ROLL.

The names of some of the persons prominently associated with the Hudson's Bay Company read like the roll-call of England's illustrious men. Prince Rupert, the Duke of York, afterward James II, and John Churchill, afterward Duke of Marlborough, were, in this order, the company's earliest governors. Its present head is Lord Strathcona and Mount Royal.

Here are the beginnings of the romance. It is a long story, long because the story is that of the continent itself from the time those adventurers set foot on the land. They hunted and warred and pleased their royal masters, no doubt, yet they could not have realized what vast riches they were unfolding to the world.

The American fur traders had a shorter career than the big Canadian companies, but their enterprises covered almost as large an area, their commercial success was nearly as great, while the social and political consequences of their work came quicker and bulked larger. They marked the sources of the courses of rivers, and traced out the lines of lakes and mountain ranges which had been but vaguely known before; discovered other mountains, lakes and rivers; gave names to many of them; and blazed the tracks along which timid agriculture ventured subsequently, and which the railways traversed later on. Earlier than the gold-seekers or the government explorers, the fur traders were in the field. They were the vanguard in civilization's march across the American continent.

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'Twill mean genuine money-saving if you've children to clothe, to take advantage of these offers to-day.

Let no one form the opinion that there is any "let up" whatever in the impetuous outpouring of Six-Week Sale bargains in general for men and women and children, and for the home. Every day brings new chances to light. A visit to the store will show you just what you wish, with Red Sale Ticket on it, in all likelihood.

Boys' Suits Selling at \$4.25 Regularly, for \$2.98

95 BOYS' SUITS, mostly Buster Brown style, in a complete range of sizes, but there are a few suits in Norfolk style for larger boys as well: every garment is strongly made and finished neatly, as you would do them, were you making them yourself. Regular price \$4.25. Sale price, to-day. \$2.98

Here are the Waterproof Coats the Boys Will Need Soon.

15 only BOYS' WATERPROOF COATS, grey and tan shades, made with fancy check linings, splendid garments for school-boys. They look and are worth regularly \$5.00 Special Sale price, to-day. \$2.98

Boys' Knee Pants.

Complete range always in stock, offering all shades and sizes. 60c and 98c

Odd Tweed Caps

suitable for school boys; Golf, Varsity and Eton shapes, all sizes. Regular 35c. To clear at. 25c

S. CARSLY Co. LIMITED

With the old surety,

St. Jacobs Oil

to cure Lumbago and Sciatica. There is no such word as fail. Price, 25c and 50c.

Tribute to Catholic Missionaries.

Sir Robert Hart, G.C.M.G., Inspector general of Chinese Customs, since 1863, speaking recently at a Wesleyan missionary exhibition at Leeds, England, took occasion to refer to Catholic missions. He said: "Although many of you may not agree with me, I cannot omit on an occasion such as this to refer to the admirable work done by the Roman Catholic missionaries, among whom I am to be found the most devoted and self-sacrificing of Christ's followers. The Roman Catholic missions have done great work in spreading the knowledge of our God and our Saviour and more especially in their self-sacrifice in the cause of deserted children and afflicted adults. Their organization as a society is far ahead of any other, and they are second to none in zeal and self-sacrifice personally. One strong point in their arrangement is in the fact that there is never a break in continuity, while there is perfect union in teaching and practice, and practical sympathy with their people in both the life of this world and the preparation for eternity. The Roman Catholics were the first in the field; they are the most widely spread, and they have the largest number of followers."

A United Ireland.

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they would get their political liberty almost to-morrow (loud cheers). It had been the fate of every Irish leader, this century and last century, to find the formidable obstacles to his course created by the action of some of his own countrymen who called themselves Irish Nationalists. Although this recurrence of history in connection with the Irish movement was a bitter experience, they would be unwise and unparliamentary if they allowed either their enthusiasm or determination to be diminished by it. That incomparable Irish leader, Isaac Butt, dealing with the opposition put forward against him by certain sections of so-called Irish Nationalists, said that after all they were the small minority, and the great mass of Na-

tionalists of Ireland were merged in one body. So long as the main stream of the river flowed down strong and straight to the ocean of Irish freedom it would be folly to be deterred by the side currents or the eddies. He said these people thought they were retarding the advancement of the Irish cause, but they were just like the particles of dust they saw floating in the sunbeam that they could not suppress (cheers). Irish dissent, Irish discord, Irish disunion was disheartening and weakening. It was a comfort and help to their enemies, but they must not allow it to turn them from pursuing their course along the straight path of Irish union (applause). The troubles in Ireland to-day were confined in very narrow limits. The great mass of the Nationalists of Ireland were united in policy at the back of the Irish Parliamentary Party, in spite of what might be done by their open and avowed enemies or those who might be their friends. He was asked to propose the toast of "Ireland, a Nation," and he could say Ireland was a nation. Nothing could deprive her of the attributes of nationality, for they had been printed upon her by the finger of the Almighty God. They had a separate physical existence, a separate and distinct history, a distinct race, with distinct national characteristics. Never, so long as the sky of heaven was over Ireland, could Ireland ever become an English isle. They had been a nation in subjection, in tribulation, in suffering, and in poverty, and their object was to change all that, not to make Ireland a nation once again, because she had never ceased to be a nation, but to make Ireland a triumphant, self-governed, happy and prosperous free nation (loud cheers). He asked them in a spirit of hope and confidence to join in drinking the toast of "Ireland a Nation" (loud and prolonged applause.)

It bids Pain Begone.—When neuralgic racks the nerves or lumbago cripples the back is the time to test the virtues of Dr. Thomas' Electric Oil. Well rubbed in it will still the pain and produce a sensation of ease and rest. There is nothing like it as a liniment for its curative properties are great. A trial of it will establish faith in it.

Thomas' Electric Oil is an excellent positive remedy with another physician named Thomas of St. Paul, who had a stinging defeat per sting, red of one's conversion, a limelight, please.

More Poles the headline temporary. J ing it was to bers threaten y clean street migration inflected.

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