

IRISH LAND BILL.

What It Will Do and How the Evicted Tenants are Regarded.

DESCRIPTION OF ITS PROVISIONS.

The following is a summary of the provisions of Mr. Morley's new Irish Land Bill, as set forth in his speech, introducing the measure, on Monday, March 4th:

THE OWNERSHIP OF IMPROVEMENTS.

At the foundation of the proposals which the Government intend to make to this House is a broad principle of social policy in Ireland, so I will tell the House what it is. The general rule of protecting the tenant in his ownership of improvements in any country is a wise and sound rule. It is wise, and a fortiori wise and sound in a country like Ireland. In Ireland it is absolutely indispensable. I won't open the old controversy whether the landlords in Ireland have been in the habit of making the improvements. I myself have never been able to understand why the Irish landlords should be so irritated when it is stated that they have not. There is a reason which is not in the least dishonorable to them. Three hundred and ninety-six thousand out of the 406,000 holdings in Ireland are under £20 valuation. If the Irish landlords had been millionaires they could not have equipped these 396,000 holdings. But this, at all events, is clear, that no more improvements, broadly speaking, will be made by the landlord. I don't blame them. . . . Therefore, whatever agricultural improvements take place in Ireland henceforth, you have only one man to look to for improvements, and that man is the tenant; and, therefore, what I call the broad principle is this, that as the tenant is the only man to whom you have to look for improvements, and as Ireland is a practically backward country in the matter of agricultural improvements, I say we are bound to do all we can to guarantee to the tenant the full fruits consistent with equity for the labor and energy and money which he expends upon the soil.

NO RENT UPON IMPROVEMENTS.

We propose that neither contract by the tenant nor to claim any compensation for any improvement made by him on quitting his holding nor anything else in the 4th section of the Act of 1870 shall authorize the allowance of any rent for any improvement. We leave the 4th section of the Act of 1870 to perform the function for which it was passed; but otherwise outside of this function we turn this section of the Act of 1870 out of the fair-rent Courts so far as it has had the effect of restricting and limiting the right of tenants to exemption of rent on the fruits of their own industry, and we give them the undoubted results of their own energy. Now I come to the increased letting value.

FIXING FAIR RENTS IN FUTURE.

What we propose to do is this. First, to impose the duty on the Court to ascertain whether any improvement as claimed has been made, and to record such improvement; secondly, that record is to be *prima facie* evidence in the fixing of a fair rent; thirdly, we define what is an "improvement" under the section of the Act; fourthly, we assure adequate and ample indemnification to the tenant for the outlay, his labor and his energy, and we assure him further, as much of the increase of letting value as is produced by and is attributable to his improvement—the Court, of course, is directed by the Act, having regard to the interests of the landlord

and tenant respectively; fifthly, we direct the Court to be mindful of the right of the tenant in the continued occupation of the holding; sixthly, we provide in this clause that the compensation so described shall be definite and tangible, either money or money's worth. That is the effect of this clause. The last point is that the compensation provided to the tenant should be something definite and something tangible, and should be either money or money's worth.

[NEW RENTS EVERY TEN YEARS.]

By the act of 1881 a fair rent once fixed is fixed for fifteen years. It may be remembered that the Commission suggested thirty years, but Parliament in 1881 fixed fifteen years as a fair term. I would call attention to this remarkable fact, that the Act of 1881 had not been six years in operation before it was found that the period was too long. . . . In regard to this statutory term three points arise. First, what is the position of a tenant when the statutory term expires? Does the old judicial term run on, or does the new term apply? We must all agree this moot point should be clearly settled, and that at the end of the statutory term the rent should be as previously fixed, and on the same conditions, until the new rent is fixed according to law. The second point is as to the length of the statutory term. . . . The third point is a rather more difficult question. In connection with the statutory term are you to apply this abridgment of the statutory term to tenants who have already had fair rent fixed for fifteen years, and to allow these tenants to come into Court after ten years? Well, this is a question of equity and policy. At any rate, our position is that if fifteen years are too long for equity and social convenience and that we think that for the future fair rent should be for ten years and no longer, I do not know how you can justify the shutting up of so many tenants who have held their tenancies, say from 1886, in a sort of limbo, and out of a term which Parliament has decided will be expedient. Therefore, we propose to the House that this abridgment of the statutory term shall apply to the present tenants.

FREE TRADE IN FARMS.

Now, I will pass on to the Act of Pre-emption. Under this Act the tenant was allowed to sell his interest, and before selling he gave notice to the landlord, and the landlord could purchase under the Act at a sum to be agreed on, or the Court may decide as to what is the true value—specified value is the correct phrase, and its meaning is that the landlord has called upon the Court to decide what the value of the holding is, in case the tenant should wish to sell. The tenant can please himself whether he will sell under the first section of the Act and give the landlord the right of pre-emption. This fixing of the value is one of the most difficult functions which the Courts have to perform. In Ulster, it should be noted, the tenant has a right to sell in the open market. We regard this right of pre-emption on the part of the landlord as a check to improvement, and, therefore, we propose to repeal so much of the Act of 1881 as gives the landlord the right of pre-emption where the tenant sells his holding.

A CHANCE FOR ONE CLASS OF EVICTED.

The present tenant is a man whose tenancy commences before 1881. Unhappily the number of the future tenants is recruited by newcomers, by whom trouble is being made for the future Government of Ireland. When a tenant is evicted a tenancy is broken with all rights. Ever since the introduction of the famous clause in the seventh section of the Act of 1887, the tenant receives a registered letter that his tenancy is determined, and the result is that he is looked upon as a care-

taker, and if he allows the period of six months to elapse without redeeming, his rights as a present tenant are absolutely at an end, and if he subsequently comes to terms with his landlord a new tenancy is created, but it is, of course, a future tenancy, not a present tenancy. . . . The proposal which I have to make is one which I hope will be considered and not lightly dismissed by gentlemen opposite. It is this: Where the present tenancy has—I am not using a legal word—generated into a future tenancy, and that future tenancy has been in existence for a period of five years, and the tenant has discharged all his liabilities incidental to such tenancy, the holder of it shall be regarded as a present tenant once more, and have all the rights of a present tenant once more. The effect of that change is that the tenant will do his very best during these five years to discharge his obligation, and thus recover lost ground. That is to say, wherever the tenancy has lasted five years before he makes his application he can be restored to his tenancy.

Murat.

In the Campo Santo, or cemetery of the former city of Naples, there is a monument, of profoundly touching interest. It represents an exceptionally handsome man, as a traveler who has studied the Bonapartes and their belongings eloquently describes it, in the full panoply of a hussar officer of the first Empire. His long hair falls in clustering ringlets round a lofty brow. He does not wear moustaches, but luxuriant whiskers curled down to the collar of his uniform. He looks every inch a soldier, and, much more than that, every inch a king. This is the statue of Joachim Murat, grandfather of Prince Achille Murat, whose death awakens these illustrious memories.

He was one of the most gaily dressed of military chiefs. I have carefully noted the magnificent jewelled sabres and daggers and belts that belonged to him, and which are now seen in the Civic Museum of Bologna, to which they were presented by his daughters, the Countess Pepoli, of Bo'ogna, and Countess Rasponia, of Ravenna.

"Here is my destiny," were the words he used when he was brought out to be shot at the spot he had chosen, in the court-yard of the castle of Pizzo, for his execution. He, who had led troops to victory in thirty battles, and faced death undauntedly, obtained permission to give himself the signal for his death. He fixed his eyes on a miniature of his wife in the lid of his watch, and then bade the guard to fire. "At the word of command," says one writer, "only four muskets were fired, and these struck the wall above his head. He made the men re-load, and absolutely stood on a raised stone step that he might afford a better target for their bullets. Thus passed away one of the bravest, silliest men that ever lived."

The National Board of Education in Ireland has petitioned Mr. Morley to extend the aid of government patronage to such schools as, being outside the general system, are yet approved as qualified to general efficiency in teaching. This is designed to bring the Christian Brothers' schools within the application of the grants.

Snipp: "I don't believe you know right from wrong." Pipp: "Yes, I do; you are wrong."

Jack: "What did that horse cost you?" Tom: "It cost me all the respect I ever entertained for the man I bought it from."

A Considerate Parent—"Going to swear off after the holidays, old boy?" "No, don't swear—such a bad example for the children."

Teacher of Physiology: "What ingredient which is highly essential in the composition of the human body does this sugar possess?" Pupils (with one voice): "Sand."



Charles H. Hutchings.

Sick Headache CURED PERMANENTLY BY TAKING Ayer's Pills

"I was troubled a long time with sick headache. . . . I tried many remedies, but none did me any good, until I was cured by . . ."

Began taking Ayer's Pills

that I received permanent benefit. A single box of these pills cured me from the effects of a severe cold, and I was cured of my headache. . . .

Awarded Medal at World's Fair

Ayer's Sarsaparilla is the Best.

Stabat Mater Dolorosa.

TRANS. BY H. O. JONES.

Tearful stood she, softly sighing,
Stood the Mother where was dying
On the cross her only Son.
Through her soul sharp pains were darting
Bitter, biting, ever smarting—
This the cruel sword had done.

O how sad, how sore distressed,
Stood she there, the Ever blessed
(Ever blessed in her Child)
While with fear, with sorrow bending,
Of her Son the awful ending
Saw the Virgin Mother mild.

O what man so void of feeling
Could behold Christ's Mother kneeling
In such wretchedness of woe,
And could then refrain from weeping,
While that Mother watch was keeping
Of her Son that perished so.

That our sins might be repented
Saw she Christ, her Son, tormented,
And the scourges undergo;
Saw her One beloved crying,
In His tortures living, dying,
Till the breath of life did go.

In thy breast, O sweetest Mother,
All thy anguish do not smother,
Share thy sorrows all with me;
Cause my heart to glow with yearning,
In the love of Jesus burning,
For in this He pleased will be.

Holy Mother, do this for me,
Let those wounds, I do implore thee,
Be fixed deep within my heart;
Of those pains he bore so meekly,
And for me, though poor and weakly,
Let me share with thee the smart.

At His feet, in true contrition,
Let me wail his sad condition
Every day I here abide;
At the cross, thy company seeking,
Be it ever in my keeping
All thy sorrows to divide.

Of all virgins, Thou, the glory,
Let me feel His bitter story,
And together let us moan;
Let us here that Body cherish
That so sore for me did perish;
Let His torments be my own.

Let me bear these wounds as meekly,
Let me drink the cross as deeply,
For the love of Him, thy Son;
Let my soul with love all glowing
Be to thee its safety owing,
When the judgment is begun.

By the cross let me be warded,
By the death of Christ be guarded,
In His grace forever be;
When at last this body's taken,
Grant me then my soul shall waken
Him and Paradise to see.
Cleveland, Ohio, March 2nd, 1895.

He: "Young Plugleigh is going to the dogs fast." She: "I'm sorry for the dogs."
"The telephone is like a woman: it tells everything it hears." "Yes, that's so. And it's unlike a woman, too; it tells a thing out as it hears it."