

exhibitors a foretaste of what they might hereafter expect, when the means of the society, strengthened, as he trusted they would be, by private enterprise and by public aid, should be enabled to carry out the design so ably set on foot by Sir Richard Griffith, by opening what might be called Griffith's Court, which would double the extent of accommodation at the command of the society—and not before it was needed—to the great advantage of the agricultural enterprise of Ireland. Turning from the cattle to the exhibition of implements in the lawn, it was cheering to see the enterprise there displayed, and to think how rapid had been the progress in that department. Every year had brought forth new items of farming implements, which did credit to those who sent them there without price. It was not many years ago since this branch of farming industry was, he might say, wholly unknown. Year after year the enterprise of those engaged in the manufacture of farming machinery had been devoted to continued efforts to produce articles at once the most solid in their nature and the most simple in their detail; and those who looked at the lawn that day would see how ably those conditions had been fulfilled. Without attributing perfection to them, those implements reflected the highest credit on the skill and industry of those engaged in that department (hear, hear). Of late years the value of artificial manures had through the light of science and chemistry been more fully appreciated than before. On the table was a beautiful cup, the gift of a gentleman who was one of the earliest promoters of farming manures—Mr Lawes. To him and to Professor Hounslow they owed the introduction of super-phosphates in agricultural manures, the results of the use of which might be counted, he believed, by hundreds of thousands. The stock exhibited at the shows of the society did not come solely from metropolitan districts, but was furnished by all the districts of the country. The midland and the southern counties contributed as well as the rest; the Kerry cow was giving way to the short-horn; and two of the highest prizes had been carried away by a Kerry gentleman for stock of the short-horned breed, which half a century ago was probably unknown there. Mr. Bland was one of the successful competitors from the Queen's County; there were Mr. Richardson and Mr. Young from the north; and from the south he might also mention the Marquis of Waterford. One name he would not pass over in silence, for when they considered that the judges, Englishmen, and unconnected with Ireland, had awarded the blue ribbon of the society to the honoured name of George Roe, they had a right to feel proud of the city of Dublin. Donnybrook—(laughter)—had covered itself with glory. Donnybrook had taken the palm from Meath and Westmeath, and while honoured names from these counties

were to be found in particular classes, no less than two of the beautiful cups which were now displayed before them had been borne away by Donnybrook farmers. Long life and honour to a gentleman who, having worthily illustrated a career of commerce in that city, stood forth now as one of the most honoured and worth competitors in the race of agricultural industry.

His Excellency the Lord Lieutenant said: My lords and gentlemen, if I may assume to the consent to this motion which the noble and anticipated will be given, I now beg to return my sincere thanks to this numerous and distinguished meeting for the honour they have just been pleased to pay me (hear, hear). And can assure you it is with more than usual satisfaction that I find that I need not depart on this occasion from that uniform strain of compliment and congratulation which it has hitherto been my happy privilege to address to the members of the Royal Dublin Society at the period of their annual Easter meetings. For I will tell you that I was not without some degree of misgiving on this subject. I knew that the recent cycles of seasons through which we have passed have been of the most trying and propitious character. In the year 1859 it was a feature which has certainly since been very amply—to amply atoned for—there was a prolonged absence of rain which materially injured our pasture. In the years 1860 and 1861 I need hardly remind you, there was a great excess of rain, which did infinite damage to the country—which covered our plains with inundations not yet wholly subsided—and which added a severe scarcity of fuel to the diminished production of food. Of course, these results cannot take place without occasioning much public distress. I naturally should not think of entering now upon any controversy as to the extent and amount of that distress. Most trying it indeed, to those who are entrusted with any creation or responsibility at such periods to refrain from having to resort to the most obvious and immediate methods of relief; and I believe there have been—and till very lately have been—conditions of Irish society in which there must have been an overpowering necessity for affording the most artificial and blundering method of relief. The land was to a great extent divided between a proprietary and a pauper peasantry. But now, except in very rare instances, it is the district in which it is effected by the people who are themselves interested—it is by spontaneous and independent effort that the strain is made, and for the most part made successful (applause). Of course, we must still reckon upon encountering the occasional rigour of seasons, just as in the sister countries we still wider ravages are being now indicated by the shocks of foreign conflicts and the stoppage of raw materials. But I trust it will prove to be with the passions and wrath of man.