

and Ireland, in the year 1897, which was endorsed by eleven of the thirteen commissioners, found that—

“While the actual tax revenue of Ireland is about one-eleventh of that of Great Britain, the relative taxable capacity of Ireland is very much smaller, and is not estimated by any of us to exceed one twentieth.”

Would a national legislature have sanctioned such wholesale robbery?

And the population. In 1801, the population of England was 11,000,000; to-day she counts 34,000,000, having increased 230 per cent. Ireland had, in 1801, a population of 5,000,000; at present, she has 4,500,000, implying a *decrease* of 10 per cent. Where then, are the eleven millions who, proportionately, should have been added to her numbers?

In the eighteen short years of legislative independence, which succeeded the Volunteer movement of 1781, Ireland's prosperity was such as to call forth the eulogiums of the most unwilling and competent witnesses. Commerce flourished, manufactures thrived, and the condition of the people was better. The Union with Great Britain was to continue, and even to add to this happiness, or, as Pitt expressed it, the Union “must infuse a large portion of wealth into Ireland and supply its want of industry and capital.” How this promise was realized, let statistics show. In 1812, Ireland's capital was estimated at £563,000,000, England's being about three times as great or £1,500,000,000. In 1895, England's capital was valued at £10,000,000,000 showing an *increase* of 1,000 per cent; at the same date, Ireland's capital amounted to £400,000,000, implying a decrease of 50 per cent.

Not less astounding is the falling off in manufactures. Between 1841 and 1891, while the population decreased 42 per cent, the manufacturing population decreased 61 per cent, and all this in striking contrast to the English manufactures, which have augmented at the same rate.

Ireland has no longer any commerce worthy of the name. She has no capital, no investments, and what income should be hers, is ignobly squandered away in France or in England by the absentee landlords and mortgagees.

Calculated, however, as is this view to stagger belief, it is far from being adequate. Poverty, penury, famines, evictions, com-