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**Congress Handbook,
1914.**

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**WITH THE
RECEPTION COMMITTEE'S
COMPLIMENTS.**

DUBLIN:

A HANDBOOK OF THE
— FORTY-SIXTH —

Annual Co-operative Congress.

—
WHITSUNTIDE, 1914.
—

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Preface.

THE Reception Committee have much pleasure in presenting this Souvenir to the Delegates attending the Dublin Congress, and also wishing them, on behalf of the general body of Irish Co-operators, a hearty *Caed Mille Failthe* to Ireland.

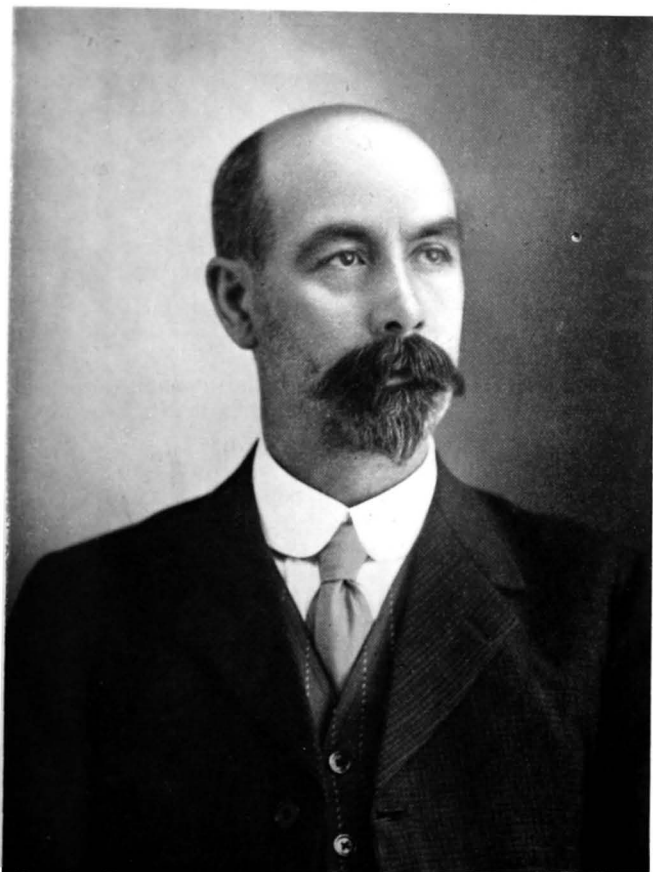
The Committee responsible for the production of this book hereby tender their best thanks to the various Co-operative Officials and others who assisted them in its preparation, and they hope that this, the first permanent record of Irish Co-operative work, will be of value to Delegates and others interested in the development of Co-operation in the Emerald Isle.

Signed on behalf of the Hand and Guide Book Sub-Committee.

WILLIAM G. KANE, *Chairman.*

LAURENCE P. BYRNE, *Secretary.*

May, 1914.



Howard's Studios

Mr. ROBERT FLEMING,
President of the Congress.

[Photo., Belfast.]

Mr. ROBERT FLEMING,
PRESIDENT OF THE CONGRESS.

He claimed no title from descent of blood,
But that which made him noble made him good.

Dryden.

THE position of President of Congress is invariably a difficult one to fill. This arises from many reasons, but probably the chief difficulty is the selection of the right man from the number of distinguished Co-operators who have legitimate claims to the position. If this is the case in England and Scotland it is doubly so in Ireland because the field here has not been narrowed down by the elimination of those who have already filled the presidential chair. In Ireland there are men whose names are household words, and whose services for Co-operation are known over the civilised world to-day—Co-operative stalwarts we call them—men who would be well fitted to fill the position with grace and distinction; and the greatest tribute we can pay to the Congress President-elect, Mr. Robert Fleming, is the fact that all generously waived their claims aside in order that he might go forward as the unanimous choice of Irish Co-operators for the position.

Mr. Fleming has had a distinguished Co-operative career. For over seventeen years he has filled many important positions in the Irish Co-operative movement, and his influence on its welfare cannot be overestimated. He has been closely identified with the fortunes of that phase of the movement in Ireland which Congress delegates are chiefly concerned with, and in all his dealings, whether as orator, as administrator, as official, or as organiser, he has played his part nobly and well. His election, therefore, for the highest honour which the Co-operative movement can give him is not only a tribute to his qualities of head and heart, but the considered opinion of Irish distributive Co-operators that he is the one most fitted by talent and experience to fill the chair on the memorable occasion of the first Irish Congress. It is usual for the delegates to know something of the history of the Congress President, and the following details may be of interest.

Mr. Fleming was born in the city of Glasgow on March 27th, 1869, and his first lengthened stay in Ireland began before he was

a year old. His acquaintanceship with the Emerald Isle, therefore, was of the earliest possible character. Most of his younger days, however, were passed in his native country, where he received a sound education, first at Crookstown Street Public School and latterly at Hutcheson's Grammar School, Glasgow. After serving his apprenticeship to the engineering trade as pattern maker and fitter, he came to Belfast at the age of 22, and since then has resided continuously in Ireland.

Although Mr. Fleming has always been a convinced Co-operator, his first official connection with the Irish Co-operative movement did not take place until 1898, when he was first appointed Secretary of the Belfast Society. This appointment he held until 1902, and during those four strenuous years he fought a battle for Co-operation unequalled in the history of the Irish movement. It was during Mr. Fleming's secretaryship that the Society was retrieved from a position of insolvency and placed on a sound financial basis, so that the task which fell to his lot can be better imagined than described. Nothing but sterling grit and unflinching determination kept the Belfast Society from following in the wake of previous Co-operative failures in Belfast, and it was the wise hand and cool brain of the Congress President, ably supported by a loyal Committee, that rescued the Society from its perilous position. During this trying time Mr. Fleming may be said to have graduated in the University of experience. He then filled the position of Director of the Belfast Society from 1902 to 1905, and was again elected as Secretary from 1905 to January, 1908, when a serious illness forced him to sever his connection with the directorate. Up to this period Mr. Fleming had been in office as either Secretary or Director of the Belfast Society continuously for a period of ten years; and, in addition, he also acted as Educational Secretary for the years 1903 and 1904.

But the above does not exhaust Mr. Fleming's Co-operative connections. In 1898 he was appointed Chairman of the North of Ireland Co-operative Conference Association, which name was subsequently changed to "Irish Co-operative Conference Association." He held this office up to 1903, when the Irish Executive was constituted under the alterations to the Co-operative Union rules passed at the Doncaster Congress, and was appointed first Chairman of the Executive. This office he held until October, 1912, when he was appointed Secretary of the Irish Executive on the resignation of Mr. Knox.

In 1909 the Co-operative Union took the important step of appointing an organiser for Ireland, and Mr. Fleming was selected for the position. This office he now holds, as well as that of Public Auditor under the Industrial and Provident Societies Act, 1893, and to both of these positions he has been re-appointed annually. He was also unanimously appointed convener of the U.C.B.S. Irish Advisory Committee when that Committee was constituted in 1909, and was unanimously chosen Chairman of the revised Committee last year.

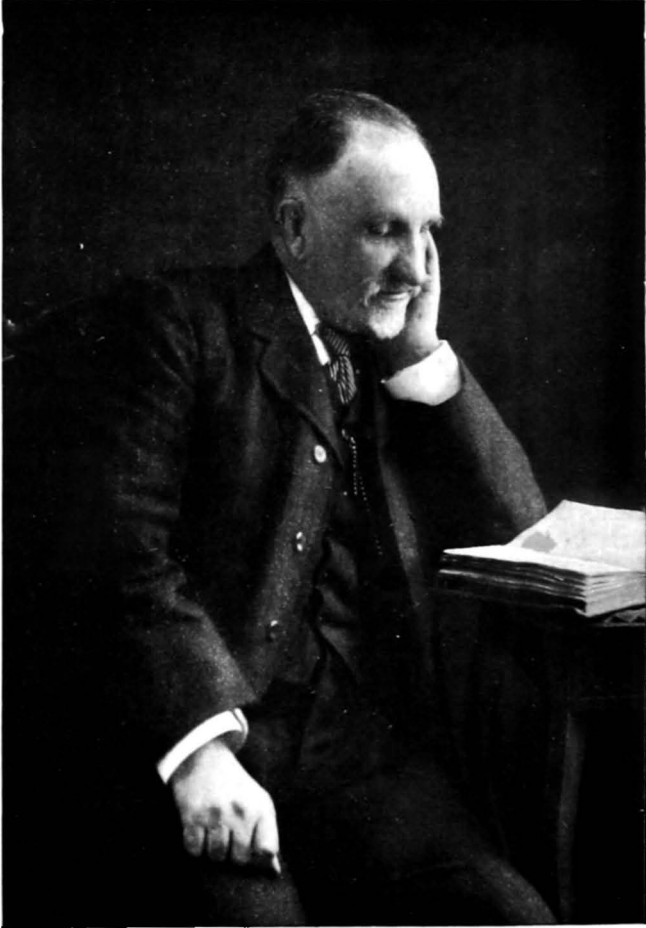
So much for the bare details of Mr. Fleming's Co-operative career. But the manner in which his various Co-operative duties have been carried out would require more than a biographical sketch. At present it is but the barest truism to say that all his work has been characterised by a thoroughness and devotion to duty well-nigh impossible to emulate. As a Secretary his sound advice and book-keeping skill saved the Belfast Society from extinction. As President of the Conference Association he had few, if any, equals, and his addresses were always of a most stimulating and encouraging character. But undoubtedly his most important work has been that of propagandist agent for the Co-operative Union in Ireland. This work has given Mr. Fleming the fullest opportunity for exercising his well-known powers as an orator, and many successful Co-operative Societies in Irish districts owe their origin to the gospel of Co-operation which they first heard propounded by him.

Previous to his Co-operative connections Mr. Fleming was a well-known and highly respected trade unionist in Belfast. From the early age of twenty he had been a trade unionist, and on his arrival at Belfast he at once became connected with the trade union movement in that city. From 1893 to 1899 he was a valued member of the Belfast Trades and Labour Council. His services to that body were so justly esteemed that when a vacancy occurred in Dock Ward in 1897 Mr. Fleming was put forward as a candidate in the Labour interest for the aldermanship of the ward. Mr. Fleming made a gallant fight, but the strong prejudice which existed against the claims of labour at that time militated against his success. During the course of this contest Mr. Fleming gained the respect of all who differed from his views, his opponent (Mr. Hutton) testifying to the fact that he never had a more gentlemanly opponent. He was defeated, but Irish Co-operators have cause to rejoice at his defeat. What was a loss to the Belfast Corporation was a gain to Irish

Co-operators. Instead of becoming involved in the necessarily narrow interests of municipal affairs he became the exponent of a national cause. Instead of having his energies confined by local influences Mr. Fleming emerged into the larger freedom associated with the Co-operative movement, and he is, therefore, in every sense of the word, a Public Man.

Personally, Mr. Fleming is gifted with a fine presence and a splendid voice. He has all the qualities which go to make up the born orator. All his gifts have been freely used for the great causes associated with human progress. But behind his personality there is that indefinable thing called character, and an acquaintance with him makes one feel, as the philosopher Emerson puts it, "that the character of the man is greater than his work." Those who have listened to his persuasive tongue have usually felt that there is something finer in the man than anything he has ever said. He is an enthusiast filled with Celtic fire, but tempered with sterling Scottish common sense. These qualities make him formidable in debate and sagacious in counsel. Mr. Fleming has all the qualities for successful leadership, and would have made his mark in any sphere of life, and the Irish Co-operative movement is extremely fortunate in having attracted one so well qualified to lead the dwellers in the Emerald Isle to the goal of their efforts—A CO-OPERATIVE IRELAND.

W.G.K.



Mr. JAMES DEANS,
Vice-President of the Congress.

Mr. JAMES DEANS,
CONGRESS VICE-PRESIDENT.

And oftentimes with courage high he raises freedom's rallying cry;
And, ancient leader of the van, asserts the dignity of man.

Macaulay.

THE invitation to Mr. James Deans to become Vice-President of the Dublin Congress is as much a recognition of his labours for many years on behalf of Irish Co-operation as it is a tribute to his personal character. It is only fitting that one who has played such a large part in Irish Co-operative history should have a prominent position in the holding of the first Irish Congress, and Irish Co-operators rejoice that the Congress President will be supported by one who has such an intimate acquaintance with Ireland's economic problems as Mr. Deans. Mr. Deans' connection with Irish Co-operation is not generally known, and the following sketch of his work in Ireland will doubtless be of interest.

Mr. Deans first became connected with Irish Co-operation in 1889, when the preliminary work of the Belfast Society was being carried on. As Secretary to the Scottish Sectional Board he was frequently consulted by the late Mr. Husband (Belfast), who was then engaged in the work of forming a Society. Mr. Deans gave Mr. Husband all information as to method of procedure, particulars, &c., and literature to help him in his efforts, and addressed meetings of friends and acquaintances held in Mr. Husband's house. About 1895 the old Irish Section of the Co-operative Union lapsed through various causes, and Ireland was placed under the control of the Scottish Section. As a result of this new arrangement Mr. Deans paid his first official visit to Ireland as propaganda agent in 1896, when he attended a large public meeting in Derry in connection with the Society there. The Derry Society had been formed previously by a number of Scottish artisans employed in a Derry shipbuilding yard, but the yard not proving successful it was closed, and as the Scottish operatives returned to the Clyde the membership and trade of the Derry Society fell considerably. At that time the number of Co-operative Distributive Societies in Ireland did not exceed six or seven, varying in membership from

twenty-four to 509, while the total Irish membership did not exceed 1,000. For a period of six or seven years from that date Mr. Deans made frequent visits to Ireland, addressing public meetings in towns where no Co-operative Societies existed, as well as addressing meetings in Lisburn, Derry, and Belfast, where Societies did exist. The principal towns visited were Derry, Portadown, Lurgan, Lisburn, Belfast, Ballymena, Coleraine, Mullingar, Dublin, Lucan, and Enniscorthy, and the new Societies which came into existence as a result of this propaganda work were Portadown, Lurgan, Cullybackey, and North Dublin. Lucan, Armagh, and Coalisland Societies were also formed during that period, although Mr. Deans was not at the formation of them. Mr. Deans also assisted in the formation of a productive federation in Belfast, called the Belfast Tailors' Co-partnership, during his propaganda tours. As a result of his propaganda work, Belfast, Derry, and Lisburn Societies benefited very much, increasing very considerably in membership, capital, and trade. In addition, meetings were addressed in almost every district of Belfast when that Society was opening its branches. The Irish Co-operative Conference Association was also a result of Mr. Deans' propaganda work. On most of his Irish tours he was accompanied by one or other of his colleagues on the Scottish Section, all of whom rendered valuable assistance.

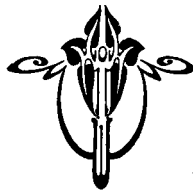
Mr. Deans' visits are still well remembered by the Old Guard of Irish Co-operators. Some of the visits have their humorous side, and the strenuous opposition he encountered at various places are also remembered. At one of his meetings an opponent was described as a grocer, and the shot went home, for the man immediately confessed he was. Another of Mr. Deans' meetings was advertised largely in Belfast in the Sandy Row district, a most densely populated part of the city. Hundreds of handbills were distributed from door to door, and a commodious hall was taken to accommodate the large audience expected. When the time arrived, however, the audience numbered only twenty-two, more than half of whom were members of the Belfast Management Committee.

Mr. Deans has been described as one who has preached in the hard and stony places in Ireland. This statement is really and literally true. Previous to his visits the situation in Ireland was far from hopeful. Trade unionists in urban centres were mainly apathetic, and even convinced Co-operators appeared to have a deep-rooted opinion that Co-operation would never flourish in the "distressful country." The powerful factions of creed and party had kept the

people divided into hostile camps, and concerted action seemed impossible. But since the propaganda work of Mr. Deans a remarkable change has come over the scene. Irishmen are now recognising that it is possible, while holding fast to their religious or political convictions, to meet on the common platform of Co-operation and work together for the good of their country. This great change cannot, of course, be claimed as the result of the work of Mr. Deans, but undoubtedly the work of Mr. Deans was a potent influence in the direction of broadening the minds of Irish urban dwellers for the coming change. Of late years the veteran Scottish Co-operator has not been much in Ireland, but Irish Co-operators feel that his sympathy with their work is as keen as ever, and among the many Congress notabilities none will receive a more hearty "Caed mille failthe" than the veteran Vice-President of the 1914 Congress.

The news of Mr. Deans' illness last year was received by Irish Co-operators with deep concern, and all were glad to hear that his health had been restored. In common with their brother Co-operators across the water, the many Irish friends of Mr. Deans hope that he may be long spared to give the movement the benefit of his unrivalled abilities, and continue to lead the van in the fight for human progress.

W.G.K.





Howard's Studios,

|Photo., Belfast.

Mr. WILLIAM J. Mc.GUFFIN,
Chairman, Congress Reception Committee.

Mr. WILLIAM J. Mc.GUFFIN,
CHAIRMAN, CONGRESS RECEPTION COMMITTEE.

His gentle speech flowed fair and free
In phrase of gentlest courtesy.

Scott.

IN the course of the struggle which has as its object the moulding of Ireland into a distributive Co-operative centre two distinct types of individualities have been evolved. One is the idealist, without whose inspiring influence the movement would become a mere soulless commercial concern. The other type—which might be called the practical one—is more concerned with placing the movement beyond commercial reproach. Both kinds are essential for the proper development of the movement. Mr. Mc.Guffin belongs to the latter type. He is a Belfast man by birth, and has lived all his active life in that city. During his youth he received a sound education in the Belfast Model School, after which he was employed for many years in the clerical department of one of the largest spinning and weaving concerns in Belfast, and rose to a responsible position in the firm. Some time ago he retired from the linen business, and since then has been helping to manage the flourishing fancy box-making business of his brother, Mr. John Mc.Guffin. During his busy life Mr. Mc.Guffin found time to take an interest in various social and recreational projects in Belfast. He has been for fourteen years Treasurer of the North Belfast Working Men's Club, and is also on the Board of Directors of two of the leading Building Societies in Belfast. During his Treasurership of the Club he has seen the debt reduced by £1,400, and a bowling green established in the grounds.

So far as his Co-operative relationships are concerned, Mr. Mc.Guffin can be claimed as a product of the Irish Co-operative movement. Although his connection with it is not of such long standing as that of some of his colleagues, he has, during his short but brilliant career, forced himself right to the forefront of the movement in Ireland. Indeed, it might be said that he has crowded more work for Co-operation into the space of a few years than the average man could do in fifty. His first connection with the movement was some twelve years ago, when he appeared at one of the Belfast Quarterly Meetings and astonished the members by a critical analysis of the Society's balance sheet. The force of character and

critical acumen displayed by Mr. Mc.Guffin at that and subsequent meetings was sufficient to prove that a new star was looming on the horizon. The inevitable result followed, and Mr. Mc.Guffin was promptly placed on the General Committee. It required but a short time to acquaint Mr. Mc.Guffin with the technical details of the Society's administration, and his career from that time has been a regular series of triumphs. Events followed rapidly after his election to the Committee. From being an ordinary member of Committee he became an indispensable convener of the Finance Committee.

Finance being Mr. Mc.Guffin's forte, it was in the eternal fitness of things that he should be entrusted with such an important position just at a time when the Belfast Society began to make those wonderful strides associated with its progress. The Society, doubtless, would have made great strides in any case, as the artisans of the city were just beginning to awake to the possibilities of Co-operation, but it was fortunate that when the hour came so did the man, and the consequent success of the Society is in no small degree due to the large and comprehensive schemes devised by Mr. Mc.Guffin's fertile brain, no less than to his insistence in making them accomplished facts. As Chairman of the Finance Committee Mr. Mc.Guffin's business instinct saw the great scope that lay before the Society, and the whole force of his energy was directed to impressing the minds of his colleagues with far-reaching and comprehensive schemes for the future.

And so the Society left its humble birthplace on the Shankhill Road, transferred its head office to the centre of the city, and commenced to branch out in many directions. The Collective Insurance Scheme was then in its infancy, and at the instigation of Mr. Mc.Guffin the Society took the daring step of creating a mutual insurance scheme for itself. Looked upon with some misgiving at the time, the scheme has turned out a brilliant success. The Belfast Society's example has since been followed by other Societies, but it will ever stand to Mr. Mc.Guffin's credit that the Society with which he was connected was the first individual Society to create an assurance fund for itself based on the collective method. Then followed a brilliant series of financial exploits which placed the Society in a central position in the city at a nominal expenditure; the securing of sites for further expansion, the building of a huge emporium for a Central establishment and Offices, and the construction of a Warehouse and Hall for the growing needs of the members. In all these schemes Mr. Mc.Guffin was the moving spirit. A new Dairy was another scheme which had the hearty support of Mr. Mc.Guffin,

and the success of which is a foregone conclusion. As a member of the Management Committee, therefore, Mr. Mc.Guffin entirely justified his selection, and when Mr. Knox vacated the presidential chair the man best fitted for the position was universally acknowledged to be Mr. Mc.Guffin. A business man to the finger tips, with a good commercial training to sustain him, gifted with a fertile intellect and a comprehensive imagination, it is no wonder that Belfast Co-operators feel that the interest of their Society could not be entrusted in safer hands.

But there is another side to Mr. Mc.Guffin's character. He is as statesmanlike as he is practical. It was he who was requested by the Irish Co-operative Conference Association to prepare a paper on the relationship of Agricultural to Distributive Societies for the Newry Conference in 1908. That paper was not only an epoch-making one—it is not beyond the mark to say that it paved the way for a mutual understanding between the Irish Co-operative Agricultural movement and the Co-operative Wholesale Society, both of which had been long estranged. On looking back after a lapse of years one can now see how the conclusions of the writer have been amply justified. The paper itself is a tribute to the clear insight with which Mr. Mc.Guffin regarded the knotty problem, and established his conclusions as to the best way out.

Since the Newry Conference Mr. Mc.Guffin has been elected a member of the Irish Executive, and it is needless to say that he takes a deep interest in the welfare of the movement all over Ireland. His gift of eloquent expression has been freely at the disposal of the Executive, and there are few Irish audiences who have not heard his earnest plea for Co-operation as a solvent for social problems.

His selection by the Congress Reception Committee as its Chairman is but another tribute of the esteem with which his abilities are regarded by Irish Co-operators. Those who know him are well aware of his qualifications for such an important office, and Congress delegates who will be acquainted with him for the first time will readily recognise that the Committee could not have made a worthier selection. Although he would have preferred the venue of the Congress to have been in his native city of Belfast, Mr. Mc.Guffin has thrown himself with characteristic energy into the task of making the Dublin Congress a success, and it will not be his fault if Congress delegates go away without pleasant memories and hospitable recollections of the first Congress held in the "distressful country."

W.G.K.



Mr. ALFRED WHITEHEAD,
General Secretary, Co-operative Union.

Mr. ALFRED WHITEHEAD,
GENERAL SECRETARY, CO-OPERATIVE UNION.

Every great and commanding movement in the annals
of the world is the triumph of enthusiasm.—*Emerson.*

MR. WHITEHEAD has long been a familiar figure to Irish Co-operators. Previous to his well-merited selection as General Secretary of the Co-operative Union, Mr. Whitehead was a member of the Irish Section, as a representative of the United Board, and after his appointment Mr. T. Horrocks (Assistant Secretary of the Union) was selected to take his place on the Irish Executive.

As a member of the Irish Executive Mr. Whitehead has been present at as many meetings of the Executive as he could possibly attend, and always kept it in touch with the Central Board. He took a deep interest in Irish affairs, and his advice on many occasions proved valuable.

The idea of a propagandist agent for Ireland first originated with the late Mr. J. C. Gray, when General Secretary of the Co-operative Union; and Mr. Whitehead (then Assistant Secretary of the Union) cordially supported Mr. Gray's suggestion. Mr. Gray's illness, however, supervened before anything was accomplished, and all the details in connection with the propagandist agency for Ireland, now held by Mr. R. Fleming, had to be carried out by Mr. Whitehead.

When Mr. Whitehead paid a visit to any of the Irish Co-operative Conference Association meetings his presence was always warmly welcomed, and his advice on various matters eagerly sought after. In Mr. Whitehead Irish Co-operators feel that they have got a sterling friend, and in no part of the United Kingdom was his appointment as General Secretary of the Union more heartily received than in Ireland.

Many matters are being discussed at this Congress of paramount importance, and the task of advising the delegates on all questions that may be raised is a most difficult one. Such a task needs a cool brain, and an intimate acquaintanceship with the rules which govern Congress, as well as a general knowledge of all matters affecting the movement and Co-operators generally; and it is well for the delegates that in the person of Mr. Whitehead they have one so well fitted to carry out such duties.

His many friends in Ireland trust he may be long spared to be the chief of the Intelligence Department of the movement, and that his tenure of office will coincide with a rapid extension of the cause in all parts of Ireland, as well as in the Greater Island across the Irish Sea.

W. G. K.



Mr. H. A. M. BARBOUR, M.A.,
Chairman, I.A.W.S.

Mr. H. A. M. BARBOUR, M.A.,
CHAIRMAN, IRISH AGRICULTURAL WHOLESALE SOCIETY LTD.

Unskilful he to fawn, or seek for power,
By doctrines fashioned to the varying hour,
Far other aims his heart had learned to prize,
More bent to raise the wretched than to rise.

Goldsmith.

IRELAND has many sons willing to do service for Co-operation within her shores, and one of the most notable and active of these is Harold A. M. Barbour, M.A.

Mr. Barbour is a native of Lisburn, was educated at Brasenose College, Oxford, and for many years has been a famous figure in Irish Co-operative circles. To enumerate the offices he holds in Irish Co-operative organisations is probably the best method of indicating his activities. He is President of the Irish Agricultural Wholesale Society, President of the Lisburn Co-operative Society, member of the Irish Executive, and one of Sir Horace Plunkett's most trusted advisers on the Committee of the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society. To fill any one of these offices well would task the powers of any man, but Mr. Barbour manages to fill them all, and with distinction. Mr. Barbour might be called the Irish Co-operator *par excellence*—one who combines a knowledge of the needs of the agricultural labourer with that of the urban dweller, and who sees clearly that Co-operation is the only method by which the welfare of both classes can best be accomplished. Through having their activities restricted to one aspect many good Co-operators have a somewhat narrow outlook. This cannot be said of Mr. Barbour. To Mr. Barbour may be given the credit of always insisting upon the great dependence of town upon country, and *vice versa*, and all his efforts for Co-operation have been directed to impress this view upon his fellow-countrymen. He cannot be claimed as an agricultural Co-operator, or as a distributive Co-operator, but as a combination of both, and his name is as well known and respected in the wilds of Donegal or along the coast of Kerry as among the artisans of his native town of Lisburn. This is perhaps the best tribute we can pay to him.

His work for distributive Co-operation in Ireland cannot be over-estimated. In the town of Lisburn he has achieved a wonderful work

ever since he became President of the Lisburn Co-operative Society, which has risen in importance until it is second only to its flourishing neighbour in Belfast. As a member of the Irish Executive he is respected and esteemed by his colleagues, and his work on that body is one to be proud of. Agricultural Co-operators fully realise and appreciate his value as a member of the Committee of the I.A.O.S., and since his occupancy of the chair of the I.A.W.S. that federation has advanced, to a degree that was altogether unanticipated. But without wishing to belittle any of his other Co-operative activities, there can be no doubt that his most important work for Irish Co-operation is the starting of distributive stores in rural districts under the auspices of the I.A.W.S. This work is a most promising one, and its successful accomplishment will undoubtedly work a revolution in rural Ireland. Ireland has long suffered from the exactions of that individual known as the "gombeen man," and Mr. Barbour's work promises to put an end to his notorious career. The dispute between the Irish Agricultural movement and the C.W.S. Creamery movement is now ancient history, and Mr. Barbour was one of those responsible for bringing about a happier state of affairs.

Mr. Barbour is in the prime of life, gifted with an apparently inexhaustible store of energy, and is the very soul of hospitality. He is a fluent and convincing speaker, a diplomat of the highest water, and a tactician who believes no obstacle to be really insurmountable. He can be conciliating and obliging to the highest degree, but without any sacrifice of principle. He is an intense believer in the doctrine that Irishmen can manage their own economic affairs, and all his efforts on behalf of Co-operation have been made in furtherance of that principle. Gifted with a clear understanding of his country's needs, a non-partisan, a true patriot and Co-operator, it is felt that Mr. Barbour will continue to justify the high opinions held about him. In common with his fellow-Co-operators he extends a cordial welcome to the Conference delegates, and hopes that the first Congress held on Irish soil will be a great factor in bringing to pass his ideal of a Co-operative Commonwealth in Ireland.

Although this is not a biographical sketch—simply a record of the man and his work for the movement—it is only right to point out that Mr. Barbour's public activities are as varied as those of a Co-operative character. He is a director of the world-famed firm of Messrs. William Barbour and Sons, thread manufacturers, Lisburn, a member of the Lisburn Urban Council, and a member of the Antrim

County Council. With the assistance of his charming wife, he takes a deep interest in all philanthropic movements in his neighbourhood, and both are large and generous subscribers to various schemes for the betterment of those less fortunately situated than themselves. The public do not know a tithe of the work done in this respect. "Let not thy right hand know what thy left hand doeth" is a strictly carried out maxim of the Barbour family. Charity with them is no perfunctory duty, but the spontaneous effort of generous hearts. With Pope, they believe

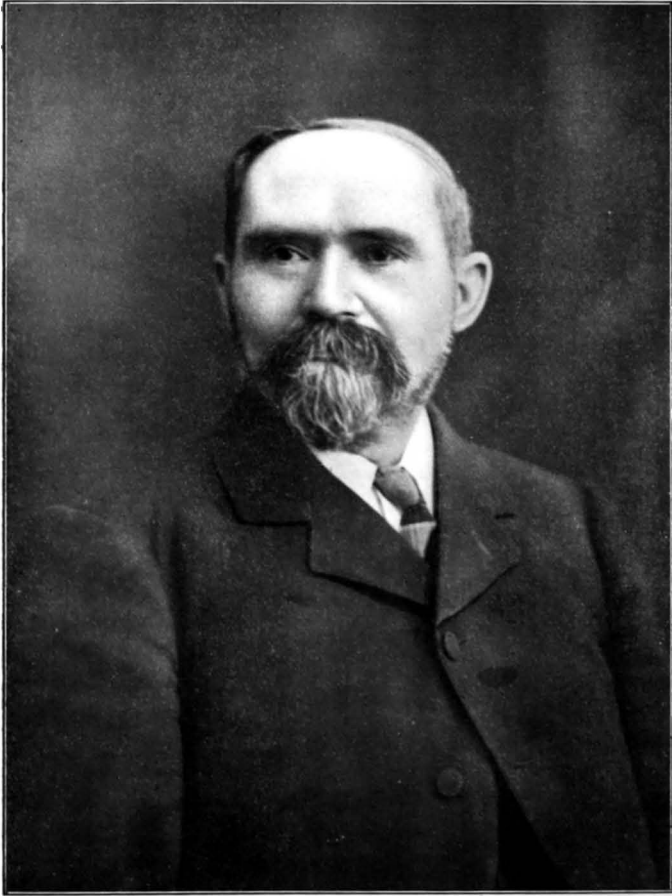
In Faith and Hope the world will disagree,
But all mankind's concern is Charity.

The greatest happiness they feel is in doing what they consider their duty to the community, and their labours on behalf of Co-operation are rendered for the purpose of creating a noble self-respect instead of a dependence on any outside help.

"May they both live long to pursue their career of usefulness and true philanthropy" is the wish of all those who know and respect them.

W.G.K.





Mr. JOHN PALMER, T.C.,
President, Irish Executive.

Mr. JOHN PALMER, T.C.,
PRESIDENT, IRISH EXECUTIVE.

He who has mingled in the fray,
Of duty that the brave endure,
Must have made foes; if you have none,
Small is the work that you have done.

Macaulay.

THE history of many Co-operative Societies in the United Kingdom is usually associated with the names of particular individuals. Our own C.W.S. is an instance of this. Those who think of the C.W.S. invariably associate the names of Charles Howarth and others with its historic career. This recognition of individuality may seem strange in a democratic organisation like Co-operation, but the fact that the work of individuals is known and justly esteemed in the movement does not take away from the democratic form of the movement, it only shows that in any form of democracy the personal influence always counts. In like manner the personality of Mr. John Palmer is bound up with the development of Co-operation in Ireland, and particularly with the progress of the Society situated on the banks of the River Bann.

Mr. Palmer was born in Portadown in the year 1850, and received his education in the Portadown Thomas Street National School. Practically all his working life has been spent in the service of the Government. For many years he filled an important position in the Portadown postal service, and when he retired from active service three years ago His Majesty the King honoured him by conferring a medal upon him in recognition of his long service of forty-one years and his invariable good conduct. During the whole of his official career Mr. Palmer was connected with the Postal Telegraph Clerks' Association. He was always held in high regard by his fellow-workers in that body, and was appointed to give evidence on their behalf during the Bradford Commission of Enquiry into the pay and prospects of the postal service. He is a Methodist in religion, has always taken a deep interest in religious and temperance work, and has acted as Sunday School superintendent for many years.

Mr. Palmer first became attracted to Co-operation in the year 1898, when Mr. Deans addressed a meeting in Portadown in

furtherance of the movement. Mr. Palmer was chairman of that first meeting, and when the Portadown Society was formed he was appointed President. That appointment he has held for the space of fifteen years, and only recently he has been re-appointed for another term. During these fifteen years the Portadown Society has had a varied career—sometimes the outlook was anything but promising—but John Palmer, aided by a devoted band of colleagues, brought the Society safe through all its difficulties, and now it is one of the most progressive and soundly established distributive Co-operative Societies in Ireland. Owing to the apathy of the Portadown public toward Co-operation Mr. Palmer and his friends had a long struggle for recognition, and the battle was only won by Northern tenacity of character and doggedness of disposition, two qualities which Mr. Palmer and his fellow-Co-operators in Portadown possess to an unusually large degree.

But Mr. Palmer was not content with spreading the gospel of Co-operation in his native town. Like all true reformers, he desired to spread the good news abroad, and after his election on the Committee of the I.C.C.A. his spare hours were given to propaganda work for the movement in Ireland. For many years he has been a familiar figure at propagandist and conference meetings, and his earnestness on behalf of the Co-operative cause has gained him the regard of his friends and the respect of his opponents. At the present time he is Chairman of the Irish Executive, and fills the position with the credit and dignity befitting such an important position.

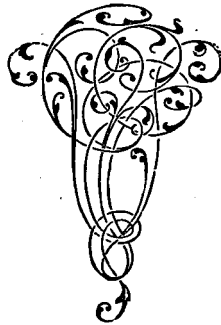
Other honours have fallen to Mr. Palmer's lot since he entered on his Co-operative career. Three years ago he was elected on the Portadown Town Council, and his first attempt in that position was to try and better the housing conditions of the working classes of Portadown. He is deeply interested in the working of the Town Tenants Act, and some of his spare time has been devoted to securing the provisions of that Act for his fellow-townsmen. He is also trustee of the Portadown Textile Society, and has taken the chair for that body on several occasions.

Irish Co-operators have the highest regard for Mr. Palmer's personal character. He is a truly typical Northern Irishman. As a platform speaker he is logical and concise, and always hammers home his facts with irresistible logic. He is possessed with a keen sense of humour, and is in constant request at Co-operative meetings, and can always be depended on for making out a good case for the movement. Since his retirement from active service the Executive

has been enabled to use his talents on many occasions. His conception of what the movement should be is very high, while his shrewd judgment and sound advice have been the means of helping many struggling societies to keep in the right path.

Despite advancing years Mr. Palmer's eye is not yet dim nor his natural force abated. With his colleagues, he is delighted to have the honour of welcoming Congress delegates to Ireland, and his hope is that the coming of such an important body to Ireland will coincide with a larger extension of the movement over here, as well as to awaken Irish public opinion to the immense possibilities which the movement has in store for all creeds and classes in Ireland.

W.G.K.





Howard's Studios]

Mr. W. G. KANE,
Chairman, Handbook Committee.

[*Photo., Belfast.*

Mr. W. G. KANE.

True patriotism is of no party.—*Smollett.*

THE principles of Co-operation are world-wide in their application, but within this international aspect there is both room and need for national methods in the working details. The many phases of the economic problem have to be dealt with differently in different countries. In Ireland, for instance, the agricultural situation must not be lost sight of in dealing with the industrial conditions, and in consequence the future of Co-operation in Ireland must largely depend upon men and women who can wisely take this most important interdependence into consideration.

Mr. W. G. Kane comes of Irish stock. In the early days before Scotch and English settlements were made in Ulster the East of County Derry was held by an Ulster sept called "O'Cahan," and the surname "Kane" is only a modernised version of the ancient Ulster clan name. He was born in Belfast, but has spent many years outside his native city. In early boyhood he was educated in the Belfast Model School. During his youth and early manhood he led a somewhat roving life, but finally settled in Belfast in the year 1892. Shortly after that year Mr. Kane commenced to study the social question, and was at once attracted to the Co-operative movement; and looking around him for some practical work to put his hand to he joined the Belfast Society in its early years of struggle. The Society was small; it had only the staunch loyalty of a number of its members, members who clung to it through thick and thin for the sake of the ideals it stood for, to depend upon. There was little material advantage to attract anyone to become a member. And it was only Mr. Kane's desire to take part in some tangible effort for the betterment of the people that led him to throw in his lot with those who, from a whole-hearted conviction of the worth and justice of Co-operation were fighting the long and arduous battle of those first ten years of the Belfast Society's existence. As everyone willing to work had ample opportunity of giving a helping hand, Mr. Kane was soon elected as Secretary, and held that office from 1902 to 1904. These were, perhaps, the most strenuous and critical the Society came through, for it was during this time that the start of the great

development came, which has continued so steadily ever since. It was at this time that the foundations of the future success were laid so well and true that the Society's growth has been a continuous record of steady increase year by year since that time. In those days it fell within the Secretary's duty to keep the minutes of the meetings of committee, to see that their requirements were carried into effect, to act as book-keeper and accountant, and to make up the balance sheet at the end of each quarter. All this had to be done within spare time, and it may be safely assumed that when these duties had received their share of attention there was very little time left over for any other interest. In 1898 Mr. Kane was instrumental in promoting a grant by the Society of $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent of the net profits every quarter for propagandist and educational purposes. The first quarter's grant yielded about £4, but the amount has gone on increasing with the expansion of the Society until in the quarter ended December 8th, 1913, it amounted to £217. An Educational Committee was appointed when the grant was commenced, of which Mr. Kane was then and is still a member. A very important part of the propagandist work undertaken by this Committee has been the circulation of the "Wheatsheaf" amongst the members of the Society. Mr. Kane was the first local editor, and held that office for some little time. He has again since July, 1913, acted as editor both of the Belfast issue and the general Irish issue, the latter on behalf of the Irish Executive. The usefulness of the "Wheatsheaf" in spreading a knowledge of Co-operation can scarcely be overrated, and it has played a most important part in extending the influence of the Belfast Society.

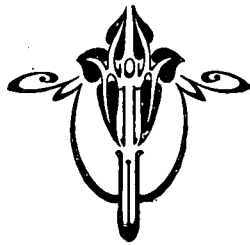
Mr. Kane has been the Irish correspondent of the *Co-operative News* since 1904, and since the year 1908 a special Irish edition of the *News* has been issued, giving weekly four or more pages of exclusively Irish news. In these pages Mr. Kane, in addition to ably playing the part of "recording angel" for all sections of the Co-operative movement in Ireland, has used his pen and persuasive eloquence in support of every effort made for the widening and extending of the influence of the only party in Ireland which keeps itself free of sectarian and political prejudices, and aims at bettering the conditions of the people of Ireland.

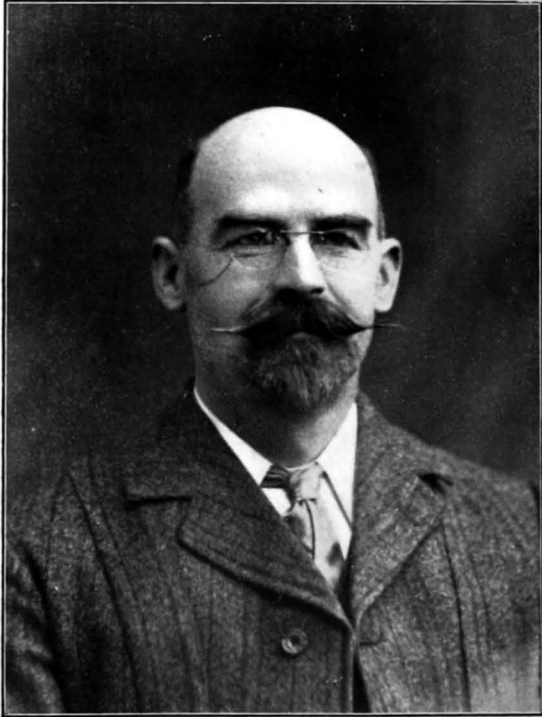
Last year Mr. Kane became a member of the Irish Executive of the Co-operative Union, which has practically the whole of Ireland under its charge for the assistance of existing societies and the formation of new societies where the local demand arises. His long experience and

high ideals of the work to be done will have a most beneficial influence on the future developments of the work of the Executive.

Personally, Mr. Kane has a most magnetic presence; he is a clear thinker, and an able exponent of his own views. He is in the prime of life, has won many trophies for his skill with a gun, is an ardent golfer, and, more important to us all, he is a good Co-operator, therefore a most valuable asset on the constructive side to Co-operation in Ireland.

W.M.K.





Mr. HENRY RICHARDSON,
Managing Secretary, Belfast Society.

Mr. HENRY RICHARDSON,
MANAGING SECRETARY, BELFAST SOCIETY.

Thou of language bland and manner meekest,
Gentle bearing but unswerving will.

Mangan.

THE movement needs men of widely varying capacities. One of the first of these is the propagandist, whose chief function is to place the law of self-association clearly before the public. This task successfully accomplished, another, but no less important, type is required. This type might be called the official or governing type, without whose aid all the efforts of the propagandist would come to nought. The movement in Ireland is rich in men of both kinds, and one of the clearest-headed and most strenuous of the latter type is Mr. Henry Richardson, Managing Secretary of the Belfast Society.

Mr. Richardson is not an Irishman, but he has been long enough in Ireland to claim an intimate acquaintance and genuine sympathy with the people among whom he has chosen to live his life. A teacher by profession, and a Yorkshireman by birth, he came to Ireland about the year 1898, having procured an appointment as teacher in a large Belfast institution. Shortly after his arrival in Belfast he joined the Belfast Society, and took an active part in the Society's work. In 1899 he was placed on the Belfast Society's Committee, and served in that capacity during the trying years of that period. In 1902 the late Mr. Husband retired from the position of President, and Mr. Richardson was unanimously chosen to fill the office. From 1902 to 1907 he discharged the duties of President of the Society with rare zeal and ability.

In 1907, owing to the rapid progress of the Society, it was found necessary to appoint a Managing Secretary, and Mr. Richardson was appointed to the position. Since that time up to the present he has been one of the most faithful, conscientious, and devoted servants that any Society could have. Other workers in the Co-operative cause in Belfast loom more largely in the public eye than Mr. Richardson, but those who know and value his work are well aware of the magnitude of the task which he is engaged in, and of

the silent, unobtrusive, though efficient way in which it is performed. Before Mr. Richardson came to Belfast he was acquainted with the movement by reason of his membership in the Sunderland Society, but he did not take any active part in it previous to his arrival in Ireland.

Mr. Richardson's connection with the Irish Co-operative movement, however, was not always confined to the Belfast Society. For nine years he filled the position of Secretary of the Irish Co-operative Conference Association, and while in that position assisted in the propaganda work of that body. His work as Secretary of the I.C.C.A. really coincided with the development of Co-operation in many Irish urban centres, and was always characterised by thoroughness and devotion to duty.

Personally, Mr. Richardson is of an extremely obliging and courteous disposition, and is much esteemed by the large staff under his control. He has the true Yorkshire gift of braininess and tenacity of purpose, and is a firm believer in the old adage "a close mouth makes a wise head." This strong trait in his character is probably one of the secrets of his business success. He has also the rare faculty of making no enemies and hosts of friends. Though not an orator by inclination, he can always speak to good purpose when required. But his task does not call so much for oratorical power as for the qualities of concentration and organisation, and in Mr. Richardson the Belfast Committee have selected one who combines both functions in the highest degree. The Belfast Society has not yet reached its zenith, and it is to be hoped that the Society will long continue to enjoy Mr. Richardson's abilities in controlling and directing the ever-widening sphere of its operations---

W.G.K.

Mr. WILLIAM M. KNOX,
ASSISTANT SECRETARY, BELFAST SOCIETY.

To make the weeper laugh, the laughter weep,
He had the dialect and different skill.

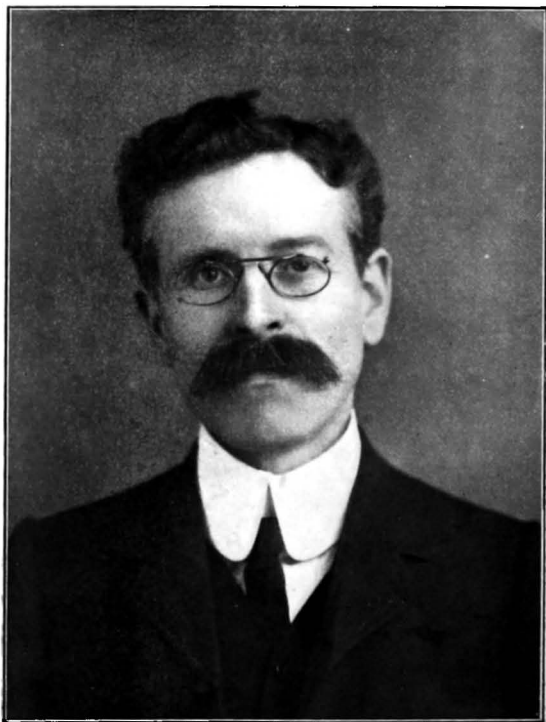
Shakespeare.

WHEN the idea of a Co-operative Congress in Ireland was first mooted many good Co-operators were inclined to think that the time for such development would not be ripe for many years to come. There were some, however, who held that Ireland was fully justified in asking that Congress should visit Ireland in turn with the other sectional districts, and the one who held that idea most firmly and worked for it most persistently was Mr. William Mayne Knox, Assistant Secretary, Belfast Society.

Mr. Knox was born near Larne in the County Antrim, and was brought to Belfast when only a year old. His boyhood was passed in that city, and he received most of his education in the Belfast Model School, like so many of his Belfast fellow-Co-operators. After his schooldays were over he entered upon a mercantile career, and most of his busy life has been spent in that branch known as accountancy work.

From a very early age Mr. Knox has been in sympathy with all reform movements. He is a born social reformer. It is his nature to be so, and his energy has been lavishly spent on any scheme which had for its object the social, political, or economic advantage of his fellow man. It was only natural, therefore, that Mr. Knox should take a deep interest in the Co-operative movement, when his attention was first drawn to it during the Belfast crusade of the Rev. J. Bruce Wallace (of Brotherhood Trust fame) some twenty-seven years ago. During this crusade Mr. Knox became actively associated with the Rev. Bruce Wallace in his attempts at social reform. Mr. Knox's Co-operative activities, therefore, date back prior to the formation of the Belfast Society.

Previous to the formation of the Belfast Society in 1889 there existed in Belfast two other Co-operative Societies, the National and the Ligoniel. Mr. Knox began his official Co-operative career as auditor of the National Society. This Society, after the first flush



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[Photo., Belfast

Mr. WILLIAM M. KNOX,
Assistant Secretary, Belfast Society.

of enthusiasm had passed, suffered the fate of other societies at that time, and went into liquidation. Mr. Knox was then appointed liquidator in order to save the members from any further drain. Mr. Knox then joined the Belfast Society, and was appointed auditor in 1892, and held that post for several years. In 1904 he was elected on the Belfast Society's Educational Committee, and was shortly afterwards elected on the General Committee. In 1907 he was elected President of the Belfast Society, and held that office with much acceptance till 1912, when he was appointed Assistant Secretary of the Society.

In 1907 he was elected a member of the newly-constituted Irish Executive, and immediately afterwards he was appointed Secretary of it. This position he held until the date of his official appointment with the Belfast Society, when he had to relinquish it through pressure of his official duties.

From 1904 to 1912 Mr. Knox had a most strenuous Co-operative career. The changing of the Belfast Society's headquarters from Agnes Street to North Street was largely due to his initiative. It was he who, when on the Executive, suggested the idea of preparing a paper in order to bring the trouble between the C.W.S. and Irish Agricultural Co-operators to an end. During the whole of this period he was using his well-known platform ability in support of the movement. In addition, he was always insisting upon the necessity of Ireland having her turn for a Co-operative Congress, and the holding of the present Congress is to a large extent due to his advocacy.

Of Mr. Knox's qualifications as a lecturer and litterateur it is impossible to speak too highly. His severance from the Irish Executive was a distinct loss to that body, as he acted as editor of the Irish "Wheatsheaf" for many years in conjunction with his secretarial duties. As a platform speaker in the movement he has few equals, while as a raconteur he has none. Of an extremely artistic temperament, his eye is always open to the beauties of nature, and his thoughts are beautifully enshrined in a book of verse which he published some years ago. In addition, he has been a constant contributor to many high-class magazines, and his name is well known and esteemed in literary circles far beyond the confines of Belfast. He is a member of the Ulster Arts Club, and assists the club from time to time by delivering lectures on scientific subjects. In his pretty home in Chichester Avenue he has a well-stocked

library, but, better than all, he has a well-stocked mind. He is, in fact, one of the most picturesque personalities attached to the Irish Co-operative movement, and has hosts of friends and admirers.

Although precluded from active work in connection with the holding of the present Congress, Mr. Knox took deep interest in all its details, and it is needless to say that his sincere hope is that the 1914 Congress will be a landmark to which future historians may point as the date from which Ireland entered upon a newer and more auspicious phase of her Co-operative history.

W.G.K.



Mr. THOMAS L. BOYD,
MANAGING SECRETARY, LISBURN SOCIETY.

I know the gentleman
To be of worth and worthy estimation,
And not without desert, so well reputed.
Shakespeare.

NO man is better entitled to a place of honour in the Irish Co-operative movement than Mr. Boyd, the Managing Secretary of the Lisburn Society. Mr. Boyd has been called the father of our present generation of Irish Co-operative officials—not in a paternal sense, of course, but in the sense of being the senior living official connected with the Irish Co-operative distributive movement.

Mr. Boyd's connection with the Lisburn Society dates as far back as the year 1882, when he joined the Society as a member, and for the space of thirty-two years his name has been inseparably bound up with that Society's fortunes. The Lisburn Society opened its first Store on May 27th, 1882, but Mr. Boyd joined some months previous to that date, and on November 14th, 1882, he was elected Secretary of the Society, and has remained in that office ever since. This is a record which will bear favourable comparison with that of many Co-operative officials across the Channel. From 1882 to 1904 Mr. Boyd acted as part-time Secretary, and when the growth of the Society in the latter year necessitated a permanent official being appointed Mr. Boyd was unanimously chosen to fill his present office. By a strange coincidence Mr. Boyd received his first and last appointments on the same date, viz., November 14th in each year. Since Mr. Boyd's appointment the Lisburn Society has grown amazingly, and there is little doubt that its success is largely due to the skill with which Mr. Boyd has managed its affairs.

Mr. Boyd, however, has another and a greater claim to recognition than his official connection with the Lisburn Society. Like many another Irish official, he found time to do some propaganda work in the North of Ireland, and so he became one of the first members of the Irish Co-operative Conference Association, which was formed in the year 1896, and was appointed its first Treasurer. As a member of that body he assisted in the formation



MR. THOMAS L. BOYD,
Managing Secretary, Lisburn Society.

of the Belfast, Portadown, Ballymena, and Banbridge Societies. For many years he took an active part in the doings of the Association, but pressure of his official duties forced him to sever his official connection with the Association in 1904. His resignation was accepted by his colleagues with deep regret, not only because of his personal qualities, but also on account of the financial experience which he freely placed at their disposal at all times.

Mr. Boyd makes an admirable Co-operative official, obliging in disposition, punctual in the discharge of his duties, and a wise counsellor in times of difficulty. He is much respected by the members of the Society, as well as by the large staff under his charge. During his long Co-operative career he has seen the Lisburn Society grow from very small beginnings to the second largest distributive Society in Ireland, and his faith in the possibilities of the movement is unbounded. Despite the heavy task that he has in hand the cares of office seem to sit lightly on him, and there appears every probability that the Lisburn Society will have the benefit of his invaluable services for many years to come.

Although Mr. Boyd is what might be termed one of the " Old Guard " of Irish Co-operators, he is still in the prime of life, and his many friends trust that under his wise guidance the Lisburn Society will enlarge its borders until the population of the whole of the ancient district of Lisnagarvey is brought under its fostering care.

W.G.K.



Mr. R. M. SMITH,
Joint Secretary, Reception Committee.

Mr. R. M. SMITH,
JOINT SECRETARY, CONGRESS RECEPTION COMMITTEE.

To build day by day
To raise up his house.

Patriac Colum.

OF Mr. R. M. Smith it may be said that Ireland to-day possesses no finer type of Co-operator. A Belfast man by birth and a Co-operator from his earliest years—his father, Mr. James R. Smith, being one of the pioneers of the now flourishing Belfast Society—he is to-day one of the builders and designers of the Irish Co-operative Commonwealth of the future, for in the Wholesale lies the germ of Irish Co-operative solidarity. It is the link which will in the near future unite the two sides of the movement in Ireland. Formed to promote the welfare of the productive side it now caters for the distributive side very effectively, so that even now Mr. Smith in the Irish Wholesale is doing what no other Wholesale has yet attempted, namely, bringing into harmony the apparently divergent interests of productive and distributive Co-operation. Without the clear vision of Co-operative ideals and methods which Mr. Smith possesses this could never have been attempted and carried through with the success which has attended it.

But ideals without business capacity and ability will not carry us far; the combination conquers everything. So it is that since Mr. Smith took up the Secretaryship of the I.A.W.S. in 1900 he has builded "day by day" until now the annual turnover of "his house" approaches a quarter of a million. In addition to his duties as Secretary, Mr. Smith assumed those of General Manager in 1904.

Mr. Smith is still a young man with the best of life before him, and with the past "but earnest of what is to be" we may express the hope that he and the I.A.W.S. will prosper exceedingly in the days that are yet to come.

L.P.B.



Mr. LAURENCE P. BYRNE,
Joint Secretary, Reception Committee.

Mr. L. P. BYRNE,
JOINT SECRETARY, CONGRESS RECEPTION COMMITTEE.

In aftertime this also shall be known,
But now delay not.

Tennyson.

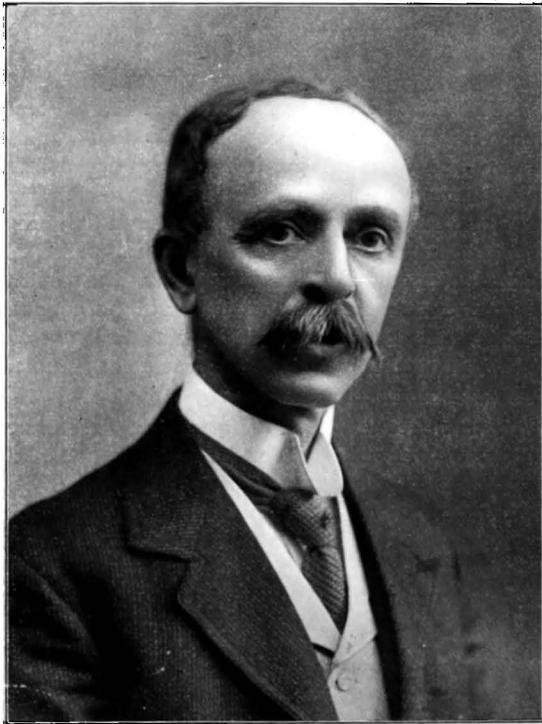
MR. BYRNE is the youngest and one of the most active and energetic Co-operative propagandists in the city. He is twenty-five years of age, and he does not suffer from the disability of having been "born in the movement." He is a Co-operator from conviction. At an age when most young men are attracted by the lighter and less serious affairs of life, Mr. Byrne became keenly interested in Co-operation, with the result that he is thoroughly conversant with all that is passing in connection with the movement. His knowledge of Co-operation is not confined to the system which obtains in this country, as he has studied some of the Continental systems on the spot.

Mr. Byrne is a frequent contributor to the "Homestead" and other periodicals, where his interesting articles and sketches are much appreciated. He is a good debater, is thoroughly capable of giving a reason for the faith that is in him, and his services are in great demand for propaganda meetings, where his forceful expositions of Co-operative principles have often convinced the sceptical and stimulated those who had lapsed into indifference.

In the beginning of the year a vacancy occurred on the Board of Directors of the I.A.W.S., and as indication of the general esteem in which he is held Mr. Byrne was nominated for the appointment and duly elected at the Annual General Meeting.

In connection with the Dublin Congress Mr. Byrne occupies the honourable position of Joint Secretary of the Reception Committee, and those who know him best predict for him a prominent place in the movement for the development of Co-operation in Ireland.

T.L.



Mr. THOMAS LAIRD,
President, Dublin Society.

Mr. THOMAS LAIRD,
PRESIDENT, DUBLIN SOCIETY.

Nothing binds
Man closer unto man than that he feel
The trouble of his comrade—so we grope
Through courage, truth, and kindness, back to hope.

James Stephens.

MR. THOMAS LAIRD, the President of the Dublin Industrial Society since 1911, is a Co-operator almost by instinct, and coming, as he does, from the Co-operative soil of Scotland, this is hardly to be wondered at. But though a Scotsman by birth he has become, like the earliest invaders of Ireland, more Irish than the Irish. In invading Ireland Mr. Laird brought with him not only the instinct for Co-operation and the well-known hard-headed business aptitude of his race, but also many years of Co-operative experience in his native country and in England. This experience has been ungrudgingly and unsparingly placed at the disposal of the Dublin Society.

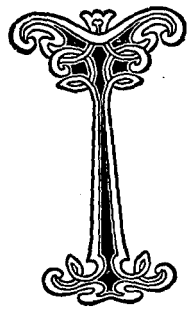
On coming to Dublin he found himself amongst others who had experienced the benefits of Co-operation on the British side of the Irish Sea, and who, in Dublin, found there was something missing. There was no Store in the vicinity, and the Societies in existence then would give no help. So a new Society had to be formed, and this Society is now the flourishing Dublin Industrial Co-operative Society. Mr. Laird called the first meeting of enthusiasts, acted as the Society's Secretary for a number of years, then as Committeeman, and finally as President. He has been in office continuously since the foundation of the Society in 1905, and in all has been an active Co-operator for over twenty-five years. His long experience has enabled him to obtain a mastery of society management, and this experience has been an invaluable asset to a young Society. He has sat by the cradle of the Dublin Society, and it is the hope of his many friends that he may be spared to see it blossom into vigorous manhood.

When opinions clash and conflict in the necessary details of Co-operative business he never flinches from stating his own views, and on many occasions has taken the members to task and reminded them of their duty to the Society.

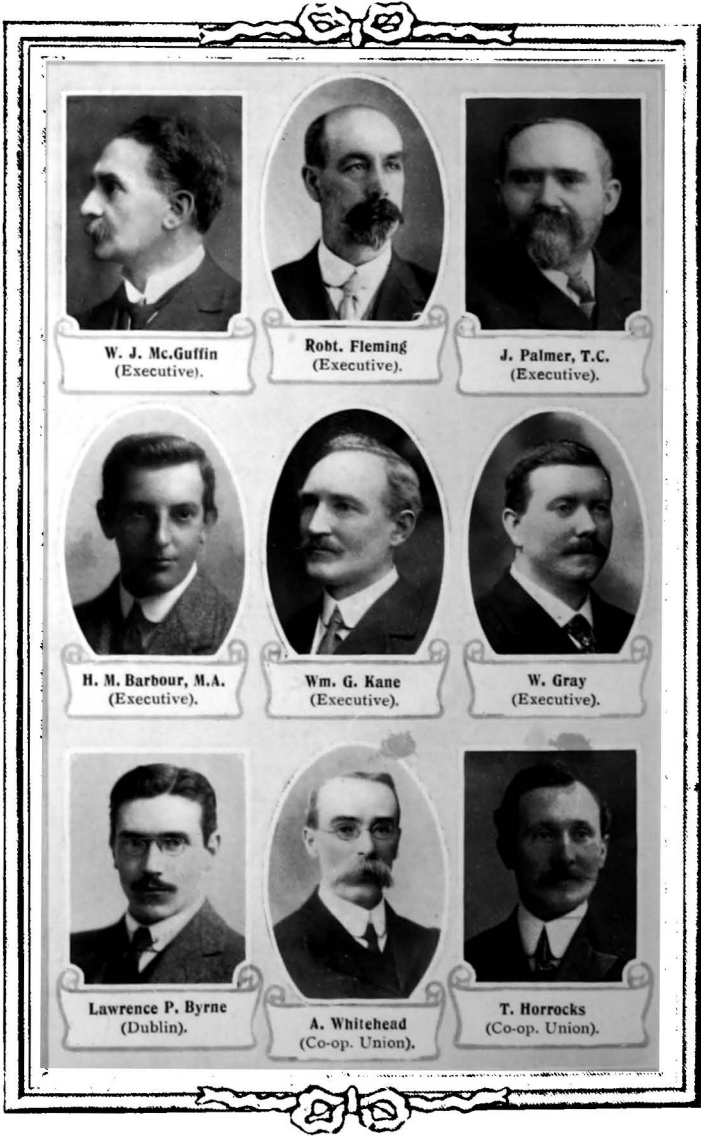
In private life Mr. Laird is an entertaining and amiable companion. Well-read and cultured, he is a fluent conversationalist; and in spite of his business acumen he is something of an idealist.

He has sacrificed his time, thought, and leisure to the interests of Co-operation in Dublin, and those services he has rendered will never be forgotten when in the future Dublin thinks of its Co-operative Pioneers.

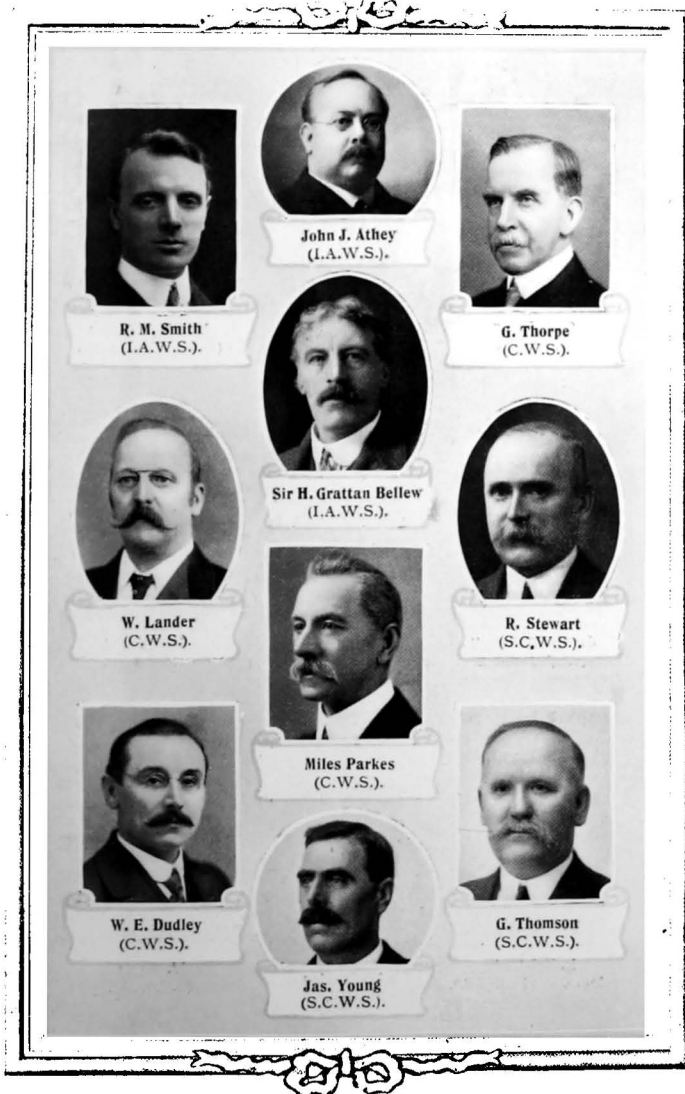
L.P.B.



**Congress
Reception Committee.**



RECEPTION COMMITTEE.



R. M. Smith
(I.A.W.S.).



John J. Athey
(I.A.W.S.).



G. Thorpe
(C.W.S.).



Sir H. Grattan Bellew
(I.A.W.S.).



W. Lander
(C.W.S.).



Miles Parkes
(C.W.S.).



R. Stewart
(S.C.W.S.).



W. E. Dudley
(C.W.S.).

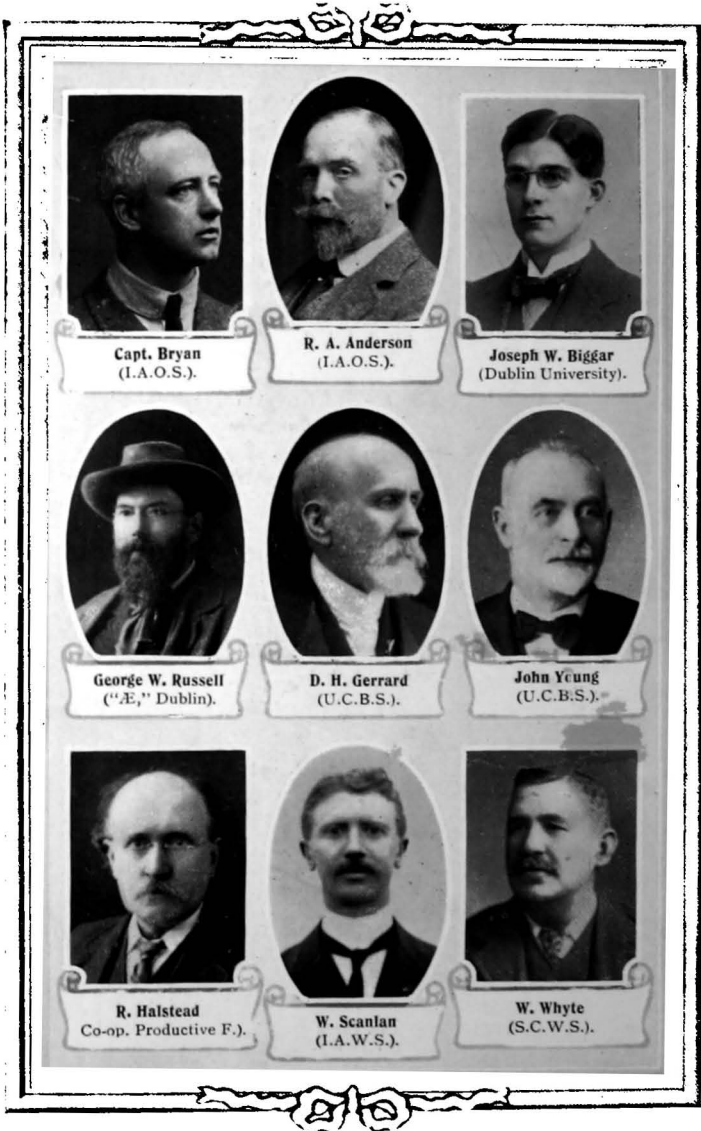


Jas. Young
(S.C.W.S.).

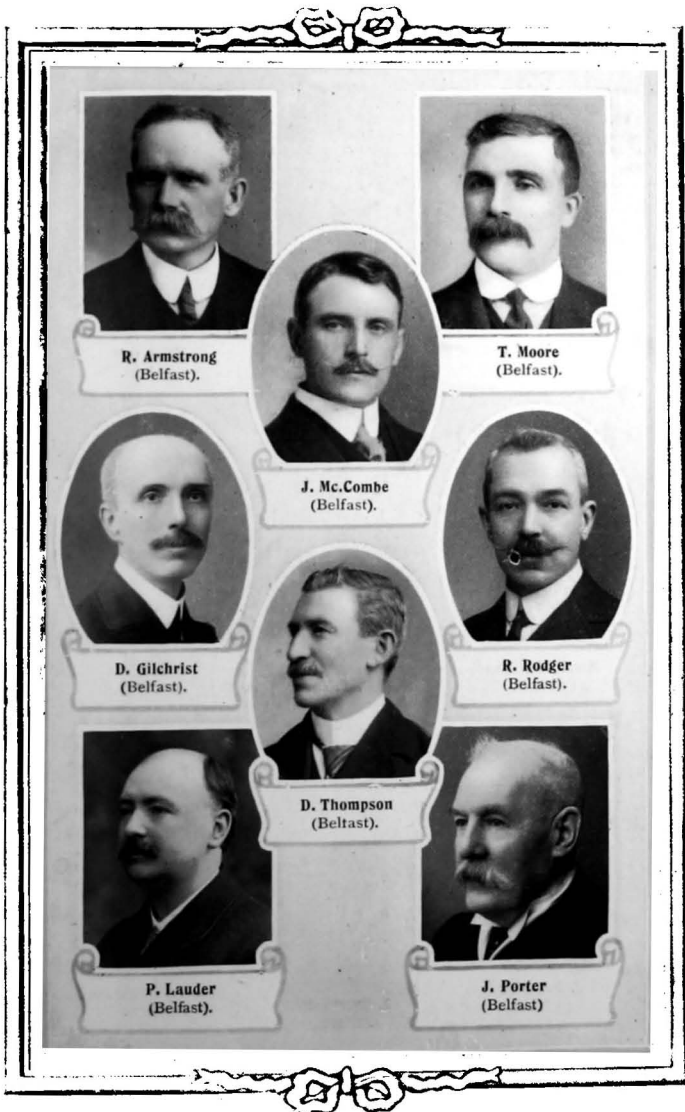


G. Thomson
(S.C.W.S.).

RECEPTION COMMITTEE.



RECEPTION COMMITTEE.



RECEPTION COMMITTEE.



R. Hewitt
(Belfast).



Robt. J. Finlay
(Belfast).



H. Farrell
(Belfast).



Mrs. Richardson
(Belfast).



Mrs. Husband
(I.C.W.G.).



Miss Clerk
(I.C.W.G.).



J. Johnston
(Belfast).

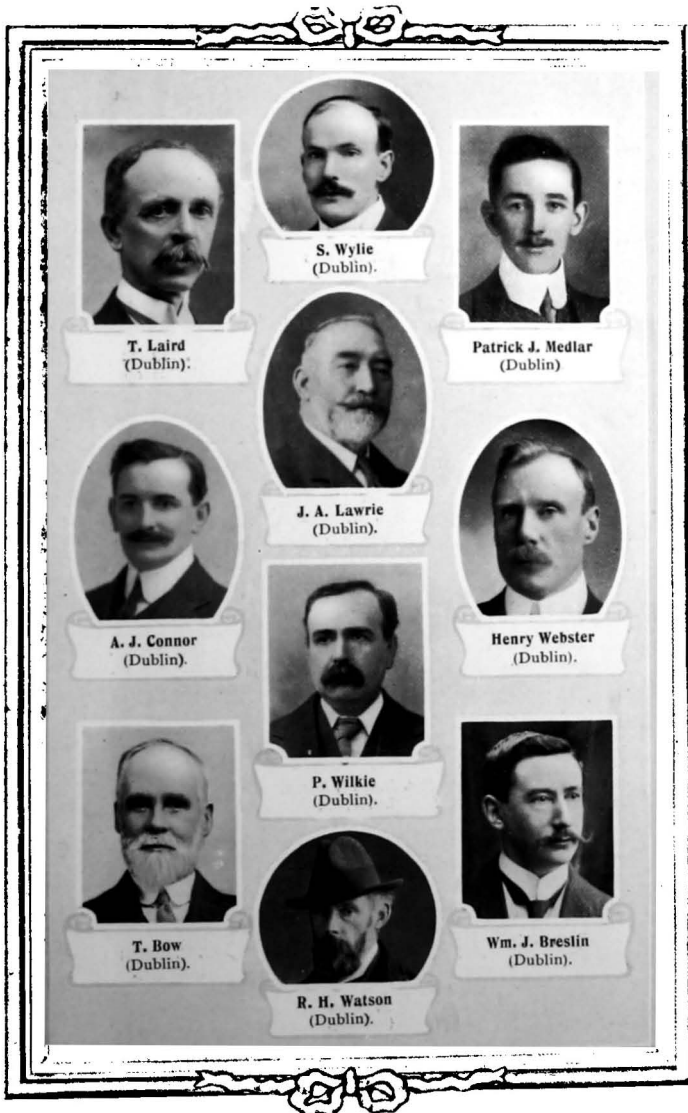


J. Harrison,
(Belfast).



Geo. Mc.Gregor Peck
(Belfast).

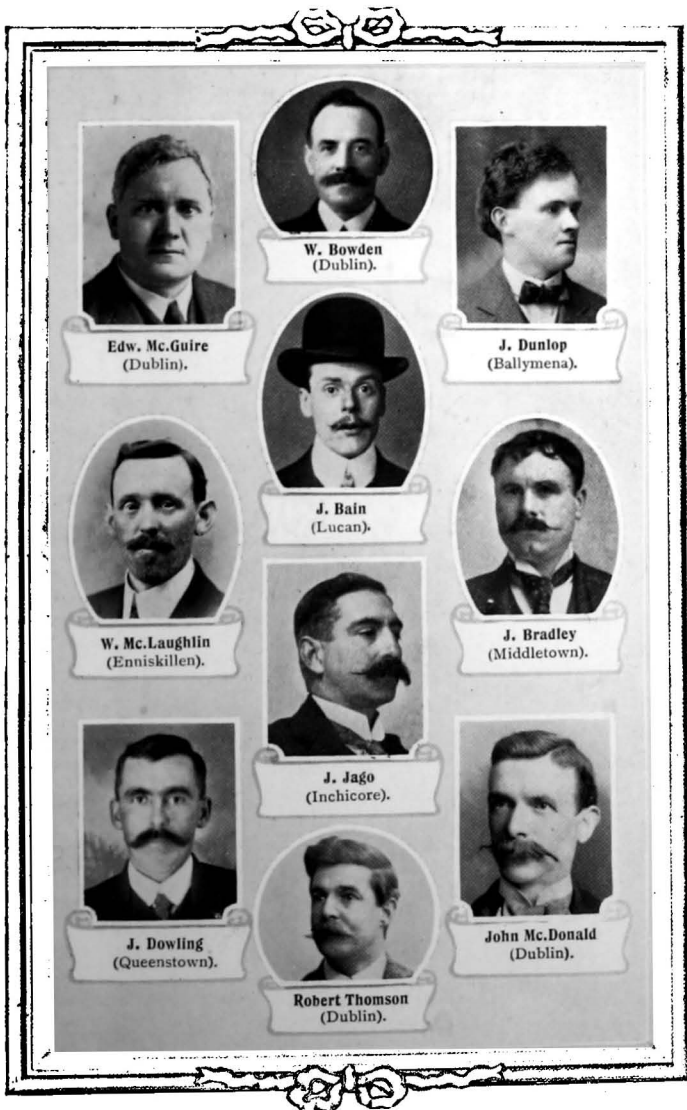
RECEPTION COMMITTEE.



RECEPTION COMMITTEE.



RECEPTION COMMITTEE.



Edw. Mc.Guire
(Dublin).



W. Bowden
(Dublin).



J. Dunlop
(Ballymena).



W. Mc.Laughlin
(Enniskillen).



J. Bain
(Lucan).



J. Bradley
(Middletown).



J. Dowling
(Queenstown).



J. Jago
(Inchicore).

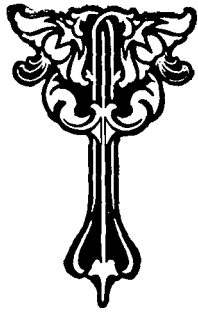


John Mc.Donald
(Dublin).

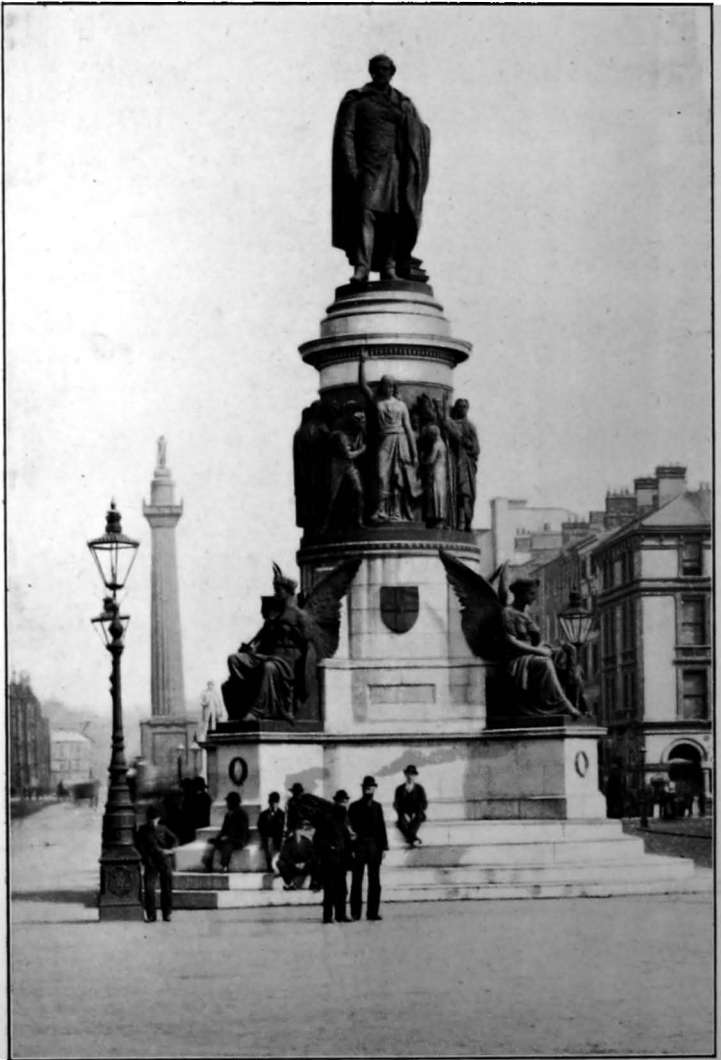


Robert Thomson
(Dublin).

RECEPTION COMMITTEE.



Historical Sketch of Dublin.



W. Lawrence]

**O'CONNELL, SIR JOHN GRAY, AND
NELSON MONUMENTS.**

[Photo., Dublin.]

Historical Sketch of Dublin.

DUBLIN is not a city of yesterday or the day before. There are many histories wrapt in the stones and names and places within her boundaries that tell of stirring deeds, splendid scenes, dire disasters, lofty hopes and ideals, and lofty men of old. There are nearly two thousand years of history in the streets of Dublin. For over seventeen long hundreds of years have men trodden her paths, and built and fought, and lived and built again, until as time went on the city grew and prospered. Fire, famine, disease, death, and the sword, have laid the Town of the Ford of the Hurdles, the Baile-atha-Cliath of ancient and Celtic Ireland, very low many and many a time, but ever and again she rose with greater strength, and emerged fairer and grander, larger and more commodious, with fine thoroughfares, handsome edifices, roomy and elaborately-decorated houses, and all the semblance of a city growing in importance and wealth. Indeed, of Dublin, it may truly be said:—

Around her walls have wandered the Briton and the Dane,
The captives of Armorica, the cavaliers of Spain,
Phœnician and Milesian, and the thundering Norman peers,
The swordsmen of brave Brian, and the chiefs of later years.

A heterogeneous collection surely, and cosmopolitan enough to satisfy even the most fastidious. But Dublin has survived them all: thriven because of their existence, and stands to-day a monument to them that shall last even as mankind itself. Celtic Dublin, Danish Dublin, Norman Dublin, English Dublin, and again Irish Dublin—such in broad outline are the epochs of this old city, the adequate comprehension of which would include the entire history of civilisation in Europe and the evolution of mankind. It would include a series of pageants unparalleled in their magnificence, for Dublin always was something of a dandy, and but rarely equalled in the history of cities. To this old city of ours: *Caed mille failthe.*

About the derivation of the city's name antiquaries are wont to wrangle. There is no doubt, however, of the fact that the original name of the city was Baile-atha-Cliath (pronounced Bwälé apha Kleeah), the "Town of the Ford of the Hurdles." This somewhat peculiar title is supposed to have been derived from the wattle ford which took the place of one of the bridges which now span the

Liffey. This is the name by which Dublin is known in the old Gaelic manuscript histories, and by which speakers of Irish still delight to call it. The present name of Dublin is said to have been derived from the Gaelic words "Dubh-linn" (Duv-lin), the black pool. This was the name given to the town by the Danes when they took the town in A.D. 836. It is said to have its origin from the dark pool formed by the inlet of the Liffey at its confluence with the small stream of the Poddle, where those daring navigators moored their ships. There is also another origin suggested as probable. In a *Life of St. Patrick*, written in the twelfth century by Jocelinus de



W. Lawrence]

MANSION HOUSE.

[Photo., Dublin.

Brakelonda, the name of the city is accounted for by a legend of a certain Princess Dublina, who is stated to have been drowned in the Liffey, and restored to life through the prayers of the saint. The balance of probability certainly rests with the "black pool" derivation, both on historical and existing evidence, for the Liffey has not changed its colour from 836 till to-day. We take little heed of natural characteristics in naming places in these days, but those old-time rovers, pirates, and warriors had a better appreciation of the fitness of things than most of us have to-day, though a thousand years have been added to the history of civilisation since they flourished.

During the centuries preceding the Norman invasion of Ireland Dublin did not occupy the place in the national system it afterwards attained. Then the capital of Ireland was Tara, in the county of Meath, about forty miles from Dublin. Of this city but few traces remain now. It has disappeared almost as completely as Pompeii. The remains of the large hall where the triennial Feis or legislative gathering took place are still visible, but that is all. The town has vanished many centuries ago. Dublin then was not even the seat of the provincial King of Leinster, merely a small settlement, a village in fact.

*W. Lawrence]*THE THOLSEL, 1750
(From an Old Drawing).*[Photo., Dublin.*

It has been recently suggested that Dublin really started at Kilmainham, now the extreme western point of the city. There in the very remote past there certainly was a settlement. The position was of strategic importance, and in those days defence, and the means and positions of defence were really important. There was a monastery and an agricultural village, largely self-contained and self-supporting. One of the great highways radiating from Tara passed through the village and crossed the Liffey by the wattle ford at Kingsbridge. But this position, though good for defence, was not good for trade, and another settlement was made on the lower

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ground nearer the sea. It was this settlement with which the Danes came to trade, and often to war. Ultimately, in 836, they succeeded in taking the town, such as it was, and became masters of the town and port.

The earliest records of Dublin are, like those of most ancient cities, few in number, obscure, and unreliable. Nothing definite is known of the city before the second century A.D. History and tradition are alike silent, and as near accuracy as we may go to place its first appearance in the annals is A.D. 140, when it is supposed to have been the Eblana noticed by the Greek geographer, Claudius Ptolemy. The *Annals of Tighernach*, twenty-six years later, mention Conn of the Hundred Battles, Ard Righ of Ireland, as dividing the kingdom into two parts by a line running from Dublin to Galway. Of this division our present High Street is supposed to have been the starting-point, and Clarins Bridge, Galway, the end.

From 166 A.D., until the first landing of the Danes, the only mention of the city is in the *Annals of the Four Masters*, which gives obituary notices of various abbots of Dublin. The Danes first arrived in 438 A.D., and were at first, and for a long time, peaceful settlers, who occupied themselves chiefly with the industry and commerce of the time. The popular opinion which always connects the Dane or Ostman of these olden times with slaughter, rapine, and plunder is, to say the least, somewhat exaggerated. In this connection we may again quote Jocelinus de Brakelonda's *Life of St. Patrick*. "St. Patrick," he says, "arrived into a city noble in its people and favoured in its situation through the meeting of sea and river, rich in fish, famous for its commerce, charming on account of its verdant plains, built among oaken groves, and surrounded by the haunts of wild beasts." (It may be of some interest to delegates to know that it was from the "oaken groves" mentioned, situated at Ostmanstown, near the Phoenix Park, that William Rufus got the timber for the roof of Westminster Hall. These are the "arches of Irish oak" which Macaulay tells us resounded to the Irish eloquence that impeached Warren Hastings).

In 836 the Danes took possession of the city, and from that date, despite their crushing defeat at Clontarf in 1014, they held it until it was surrendered to Strongbow and his ally, Dermot MacMorrough, by their descendants in 1170.

Of Danish Dublin scarcely a trace remains. Their Thingmoot, or meeting place, which overlooked the present College Green, has,



W. Lawrence]

THE MUSEUM.

[Photo., Dublin.



W. Lawrence]

FOUR COURTS AND RIVER LIFFEY.

[*Photo., Dublin.*

of course, been swept away. The crypt of Christchurch Cathedral and the coins and other relics now in the National Museum are probably the only remaining remnants left to remind us of their sovereignty. But they served Dublin well, and even if they did plunder in other places Dublin has no cause to revile their memory. We have forgiven and forgotten long ago.

Of Dublin's next invaders the same thing cannot, unfortunately, be said, for Dublin still thinks of them even though she has forgiven them. The city having been taken by Strongbow and held by him excited that far-seeing and jealous statesman Henry of Anjou, Henry II. of England, so much that he determined to exert his feudal authority, and so to order things that his supremacy should stand unquestioned. He therefore called on Strongbow to render to him an account of his conquest, and having exacted from him full submission he sailed for Ireland, landing at Croch, near Waterford, and held a Synod at Cashel. He then proceeded to Dublin, where he held court for three months. He had ordered to be erected for him, close to the Church of St. Andrew the Apostle, then outside the city, a royal palace constructed of peeled wattles, and here he received his conquering barons. He seems to have treated Dublin as if it were his own personal property, probably because it had been surrendered to him, as their suzerain, by his Norman adventurers, who had taken it from its Danish owners. This wattle palace of Henry's was built on the Danish Thingmount, and this fact may have suggested to him a claim to some kind of elective lordship. From this palace on the Thingmount he issued a charter "to his men of Bristol," whereby he gave his city of Dublin to the said men to hold as they held Bristol, and appointed one, Hugh de Lacy, to be his baillie thereof. This charter of Henry II. is the first of the 107 Royal Charters which Dublin possesses. Henry had to leave Dublin rather hastily to attend to his affairs in England, which were then in an unhappy state. In 1174, however, we hear from him again. In that year, by a charter dated from Normandy, he granted to his burgesses of Dublin "freedom from toll, passage, portage, lestage, povage, murage, quayage, carriage, and all customs for themselves and their goods throughout his entire land of Normandy, England, Wales, and Ireland." In 1176, the Earl of Pembroke, surnamed Strongbow, died, and was buried in Christchurch Cathedral, where his tomb may still be seen. In 1177, at the Council of Oxford, Henry had invested his youngest son John, then eleven years old, as Lord of Ireland, thus the first

Norman coinage in Ireland bore the full face of John, with a diadem of fine pearls, and the inscription *Johannes Dom*, and the names of the minters in Dublin and Waterford.

The year 1185 found John in Ireland, where we are told he was considered "peevish and insolent." He had some of the insolence taken out of him, however, in the autumn of that year, when he and his troops were defeated "with great slaughter" by O'Brien, King of Thomond. On his arrival in Dublin he confirmed the charter of his father "to my men of Bristol," and granted to the Canons of the Priory of St. Thomas the tenth of ale and mead which he had "by usage from the taverns of that city." He departed "the same yeare he came, and leaving the realme a great deal worse bestedde than he found it."

In 1190 Archbishop Comyn founded the Church of St. Patrick. The church was solemnly dedicated on St. Patrick's day, March 17th, 1191, by the Archbishop of Armagh and Dublin and the Papal Legate "to God, our Blessed Lady, and St. Patrick." The church was constituted a cathedral by Archbishop Comyn's successor, Henry de Londres, in 1220. This Henry de Londres also "builded the King's Castle," in Dublin, "four square or quadrangle wise" about 1212. About this time also an organised effort seems to have been made to fortify and enclose the city. The city was being constantly attacked by the O'Byrnes and O'Tooles from the neighbouring hills, and only recently a large number of the citizens had been ambushed whilst picnicing outside the city and slain. So Henry III. granted a charter in 1221 by which the citizens were empowered "in aid of enclosing their city to levy a toll of 3d. on every sack of wool, 6d. on every last (12 dozen) of hides, and 2d. on every butt of wine brought into the city for sale until the king comes of age." He was then fourteen; and in 1233 and 1250 further tolls were authorised for enclosing and strengthening the city.

In 1283 the greater part of the city was destroyed by a dreadful and disastrous fire, and in 1304 another accidental fire destroyed the Danish Abbey of St. Mary, together with the chancery rolls which were deposited there.

In 1308 Edward II. in order to protect his favourite Piers Gaviston from the attacks of his barons appointed him Lord Lieutenant of Ireland. He sailed from Bristol to Dublin in the royal barge, and having established himself in Dublin Castle held Regal Court there. His regal pomp, however, was but short-lived,



W. Lawrence]

CITY HALL.

[*Photo., Dublin.*



W Lawrence]

GENERAL POST OFFICE AND NELSON PILLAR.

[Photo., Dublin.

for in a few years he had not only been recalled to but also formally banished from England.

The next piece of Irish history which touches Dublin very intimately was the rebellion of 1315. It having been decided by the Irish Chieftains that an effort should be made to drive the Anglo-Normans from Ireland, Edward Bruce, brother of the Scottish King, was invited to take supreme command of the army, and also the Crown of Ireland.

In May, 1315, Bruce landed at Carrickfergus, Co. Antrim, with 6,000 men, and was joined by the Ulster Chieftains. Two years later he arrived near Dublin and captured the Castle of Knock (Castleknock) outside the western gates. The citizens had made preparations for the defence of the city; the walls were strengthened, and an inner wall was erected, the monastery of St. Saviour being dismantled to provide stone for that purpose. On hearing of the approach of Bruce's forces the citizens fired the outlying portions, including "St. Thomas his Street," lest he should find succour in the suburbs. One of Bruce's allies, the Red Earl of Ulster, having been taken prisoner and lodged in the castle, and doubtless somewhat impressed by the strength of the defences, Bruce raised the siege and proceeded to Kilkenny. In the following year he was defeated and slain near Dundalk, his head and heart being sent to Dublin probably for exhibition on the city gates. Encouraged probably by the early successes of Bruce the septs of the Dublin district—the O'Byrnes, O'Tooles, and O'Moores—had become very active, and the Lord Deputy, at the instigation of the citizens, "with them coped and made a great slaughter, so that four score of their heads were set upon Dublin Castle." In those days the Castle seems to have been seldom without ornamentation of this kind. If the Lord Deputy helped the citizens they seem to have paid dearly for his help, for Campion says:—

Mortimer went over to the King indebted to the citizens of Duvlin for his viandes a thousand poundes, whereof he paid not one snulkin, and many a bitter curse carried with him to the sea.

In 1320, under a bull of Pope Clement V., a University was established, under the direction of the Franciscans in St. Patrick's Cathedral, and flourished until the dissolution of the Cathedral establishment under Henry VIII. During this century pestilence and famine seem to have been frequent visitants of the city, a very notable dearth of food in 1331 being relieved by the appearance

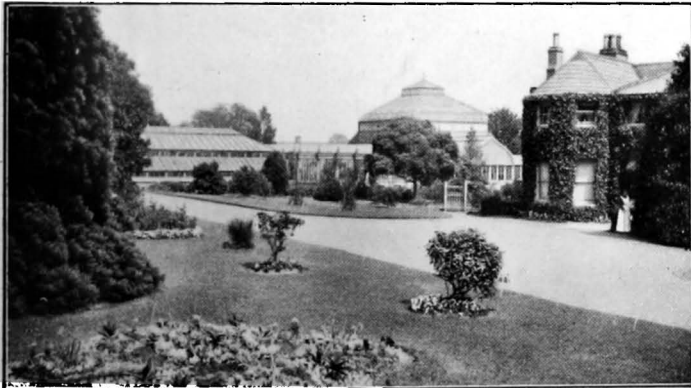
of a shoal of huge fish to the mouth of the Dodder. These fish are supposed to have been bottle-nosed whales, a specimen of which was captured in the Liffey in 1905.

In 1361 King Edward III., believing that "our Irish dominions have been reduced to such utter devastation, ruin, and misery that they may be totally lost," sent his son, Lionel of Antwerp, Duke of Clarence, to bring them succour. By the statute of Kilkenny he defined the English territory, afterwards known as the Pale, within which the King's writ ran, leaving the rest of the country to Irish law and custom. This Pale varied in extent from time to time as battles were lost and won, but of it Dublin was the acknowledged centre and capital. From this date the position of Dublin as capital and seat of government has not been seriously questioned. In furtherance of the "succour" policy of Edward III. his successor, Richard II., landed in Waterford (1394) with an army of 30,000 men, and marched to Dublin and spent Christmas there. He held court in great state and splendour, and conferred the order of knighthood on some of the Irish chieftains. On departing he left behind him as viceroy Roger Mortimer, Earl of March, whose death (1398) induced him, in an evil hour for his own fortunes, to again visit Ireland. He landed at Waterford on June 1st, 1399, almost simultaneously with the landing of Henry of Lancaster at Ravenspur, the news of which reached him in Dublin. As a commentary on the thriving state of Dublin at this time, it is recorded that though Richard occupied the city with an army of 30,000 men for six weeks there was no increase in the price of provisions.

The beginning of the fifteenth century seems to have been auspicious for the citizens of Dublin, for we find them in 1432 marching against their old enemies, the O'Byrnes, whom they met and defeated near Bray. For this exploit the King (Henry IV.) granted to the Mayor and his successors the privilege of having a gilt sword carried before them.

The constant rivalry between the two great Anglo-Irish families, the Fitzgeralds and the Butlers, seems to have been a continual source of worry to the citizens of Dublin. The churches even were not free from their attention, and often their precincts resounded to the war-cries of "Crom Aboo" and "Botiller Aboo." In 1592 the Mayor of Dublin was forced to do public penance by walking barefooted through the streets in consequence of a riot in St. Patrick's Cathedral between these contending factions.

In June, 1541, a notable Parliament met in Dublin, which contained among its members not only the Anglo-Norman lords, but many of the hereditary Irish chieftains. In this Parliament the Lord Deputy, Sir Anthony Senteleger, "caused an Act to pass which gave unto King Henry VIII., his heirs and successors, the name, style, and title, already suggested by Lord Chancellor Allen in 1537, of King of Ireland, whereas before that time the kings of England were styled but Lords of Ireland." The proclamation of the assumption of this new title, together with a general amnesty, was, we are told, received with great rejoicings in Dublin, and on the following Sunday the Lords and Gentlemen of Parliament went



W. Lawrence]

BOTANIC GARDENS.

[Photo., Dublin

in procession to St. Patrick's Cathedral, where High Mass was sung by Archbishop Browne and the *Te Deum* chanted. "There were made in the city," writes the Lord Deputy to the King, "great bonfires, wine set in the street, great feasting in the houses, with a goodly firing of guns." Thus was ushered in the new era of English rule in Ireland, which was indeed productive of many burnings and much firing of guns, but scarcely of feastings and rejoicings. About this time also the Lord Deputy erected a mint within the Castle, which we are quaintly informed by Campion "quickly wearied them for want of fuel." Sir Henry Sidney, appointed Lord Deputy by Queen Elizabeth, appears to have been very anxious to have a reliable record of the proceedings of the Parliaments



W. Lawrence

DUBLIN UNIVERSITY—TRINITY COLLEGE.

[Photo, Dublin.]

which met in Dublin, so we find him in 1568 issuing the following licence from Dublin Castle:—

Whereas divers Parliaments have been holden within Ireland, and divers laws, statutes, and Acts made in the same, which laws being never hitherto put in print, have altogether turned into oblivion, and forasmuch as John Vowell, *alias* Hoker, gent., being one of the said assembly, has offered at his own charges to imprint all the said statutes and Acts heretofore made, we grant him the sole privilege and licence to imprint the same for ten years next ensuing.

In 1575 we find the plague again raging in Dublin and the Pale generally. Grass grew in the streets of Dublin, and the citizens fled to Drogheda, where the Lord Deputy also kept his court, "finding the infection of the plague so generallie dispersed, and especially in the English Pale, that he could hardly find a place where to settle himselfe without danger of infection."

In 1591 Trinity College was incorporated by charter of Queen Elizabeth—Dublin at the time being without a University since the closing of the institution before referred to—and was opened to students on January 9th, 1593. Since that date the name of Trinity College, Dublin, is indelibly written on some of the brightest pages of Irish history, and some of the greatest figures both in Irish and British histories have their names inscribed on the students' roll of the college. Its own history has been somewhat chequered, and to deal adequately with it would require more space than is here available. It will therefore suffice to say that it has adequately fulfilled the purposes for which it was founded.

The opening of the seventeenth century found the whole of the County Dublin south of the Liffey in the hands of the "rebels," but, we are told by Fynes Moryson, the Lord Deputy (Sir George Carew) again reduced the Wicklow septs, and "the mountains and glynnes on the south side of Dublin were made a shire of itself and became the County of Wicklow," and the city seems to have had a quiet period for the remainder of Elizabeth's reign, as also through that of her successor.

Under the ill-fated Charles I. religious animosities developed in the city, of which the following episode may be taken as a sample: On St. Stephen's Day, 1629, the Lords Justices were attending divine service in Christchurch Cathedral when news reached them that the Carmelites were celebrating mass in Cook Street. The Archbishop of Dublin, accompanied by the Lord Mayor with a body of soldiers, proceeded thither, and seized the officiating priest and



W. Lawrence]

SACKVILLE STREET,

[*Photo., Dublin.*

carried him off, together with all the sacred vessels. The populace attacked the soldiers and rescued the priest, but by way of punishment fifteen religious houses lately founded in Dublin were sequestered to the King. Two years later the Catholic College, which had been established in Back Lane in succession to that conducted by the Franciscans at St. Patrick's, was closed by order of the Government and handed over to Trinity College, whose governing body established a weekly lectureship therein. This building is still in existence and is known as the Taylor's Hall.

In the ten years, 1640-50, Dublin was three times besieged; in 1641, an episode of the Ulster Rebellion of that year, by Lords Gormanstown and Fingal. On this occasion the city was relieved by the arrival of troops from England, and many of the disaffected leaders were captured and beheaded in the Castle. The city was again invested during the Confederate Wars by General Preston and Owen Roe O'Neill, but was again relieved by the arrival of reinforcements from England under Colonel Michael Jones. After the execution of Charles I. the city was seized, taken, and held for the Parliamentarians, and here Cromwell landed on August 15th, 1649, and commenced his ten months' career of unchecked successes and ruthless terrorism, which has made "the curse of Cromwell" even to-day the bitterest malediction the Irishman can invoke upon his enemies.

About this time Dublin was again visited by "pestilence," which became so bad in the summer of 1661 that it was reported by the Parliamentary Commissioners that, having inquired "into the present state of the College of Dublin, they were moved to dissolve that society until it shall please God to remove the sickness." Of the precise nature of these pestilential visitations we are left in doubt, but they were probably typhus or scarlet fevers, whose terrors improved sanitation has done much to diminish.

In May, 1660, a council of officers seized the Castle, and, on a petition of the Mayor and Aldermen of the city, summoned a convention, which accepted the declaration of Breda, and King Charles II. was with great rejoicings, we are told, proclaimed in all the chief towns of Ireland. By way of showing his gratitude to the Dublin Municipality the restored King presented the Mayor with a collar of solid gold and assigned him a foot company of guards, and in 1665 further dignified him with the title of Lord Mayor, and granted him £500 in lieu of the company of guards.

In 1670 Charles founded the Bluecoat Hospital in Blackhall Street for "the children of decayed citizens."

James II. held court in Dublin for a short time on his way to the Boyne. He entered the city on Palm Sunday, March 24th, 1689, by St. James's Gate, the site of which is now occupied by Guinness's Brewery. The street from St. James's Gate to the Castle was lined by troops of the garrison, and was freshly strewn with gravel for the occasion. We are informed by Wright in his *History of Ireland* that

At the utmost limits he was met by the Lord Mayor, Aldermen, Common Council, Master Wardens, and Brethren of the several City Companies in their formalities, the King and Herald-at-Arms, Pursuivants, and Servants of the Household, and there received the Sword of State (which he gave to Tyrconnell, who carried it before him through the city) and the Sword and Keys of the city, and there had a speech made to welcome him "to that loyal city and people" by Councillor Dillon, who that morning was sworn Recorder in the room of Counsellor Barnwell.

James seized the mint of a man named Moore, who held a patent from Charles II. authorising him to strike copper coins, from which he issued his famous "brass money," made from old guns, bells, and scrap metal, to the nominal value of one and a half millions sterling. The real value of £5 of this money was 4d. He expelled the fellows and scholars of Trinity College and seized the property of the University, converting the chapel into a magazine and the chambers into prisons.

Then came the Boyne. James, after sleeping one night in Dublin, fled once more to France, and the Irish army evacuated Dublin and marched on Limerick. On Friday, July 4th, William entered Dublin, and on the Sunday following attended a thanksgiving service at St. Patrick's Cathedral.

In 1692 a new and extended charter was granted to the "President and Fraternity of Physicians," founded in 1654 by John Stearne, M.D., and incorporated in 1677 by Charles II. The society was thenceforth known as "the King's and Queen's College of Physicians" until 1889 when, under a new charter of Queen Victoria, it received its present name of the "Royal College of Physicians."

In 1697 William presented to the Lord Mayor, Bartholomew Von Homrigh, the collar of solid gold to replace that lost in 1688, which is still worn by the Lord Mayor of Dublin. It bears a miniature of the royal donor.

The 'nineties of this century witnessed the issue of Dublin's second newspaper, *The Flying Post*, published at Dick's Coffee House in Skinner's Row.

Here, at the end of the seventeenth century, we may leave old Dublin, the city of wars and sieges, of tribal, family, and even royal rivalry and intrigue, for Dublin has been besieged for the last time (probably), and we stand at the threshold of modern Dublin. In such a brief outline it is difficult to give an adequate idea of Dublin's history, but it is hoped that what is here given will merely whet the appetite for more; and it need only be said that the history of Dublin will repay any time bestowed on it. All history contains some lessons for us, and that of Dublin is no exception to Sir John Seeley's generalisation.

L.P.B.



W. Lawrence]

QUEEN VICTORIA MEMORIAL,
NATIONAL LIBRARY, AND LEINSTER HOUSE.

[*Photo., Dublin.*

HISTORIC HOUSES.

The following is a list of houses in Dublin which are of interest on account of their association with former notable residents:—

UPPER MERRION STREET (24).—Birthplace of the first Duke of Wellington.

MERRION SQUARE (1).—Residence of Sir William Wilde and his wife, the Irish poetess, "Speranza."

MERRION SQUARE (58).—The residence (1823) of Daniel O'Connell.

GRAFTON STREET (79).—Site of the school of Mr. Samuel White, (*cir.* 1800), the teacher of Sheridan, Moore, &c.

COLLEGE GREEN (3).—Site of the famous Daly's Club (1822).

STAFFORD STREET (44).—Birthplace of Theobald Wolfe Tone (1763).

AUNGIER STREET (12).—Birthplace, in 1779, of Thomas Moore, author of *Lallah Rookh*, *Irish Melodies*, &c.

ELY PLACE (4).—Residence of John Curran, celebrated wit and orator (1780).

HOEY'S COURT (12).—Birthplace of Richard Brinsley Sheridan.

ARRAN QUAY (12).—Birthplace of Edmund Burke.

PITT STREET (10).—Birthplace of Michael Balfe, the composer.

LORD EDWARD STREET (3).—Birthplace of James Clarence Mangan (1803).

CHRISTCHURCH PLACE (6 and 7).—Residence of the Earls of Kildare for over 200 years; afterwards site of Dick's Coffee House for close on a century.

D'OLIER STREET (9).—Residence, in 1839, of Samuel Lover.

CHARLES STREET (21).—Residence (1835-50) of George Petrie, LL.D., the antiquary.

DIGGES STREET (5).—Residence of John Hogan, the sculptor.

KILDARE STREET (39).—Residence (1813) of Lady Morgan.

GREAT DENMARK STREET (3).—The home of Lord Norbury, the famous judge.

GREAT GEORGE'S STREET (20).—The home of Sir Samuel Ferguson.

LOWER BAGGOT STREET (128).—Home of the Brothers Sheares.

Modern Dublin.



W. Lawrence

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY,

[Photo, Dublin.]

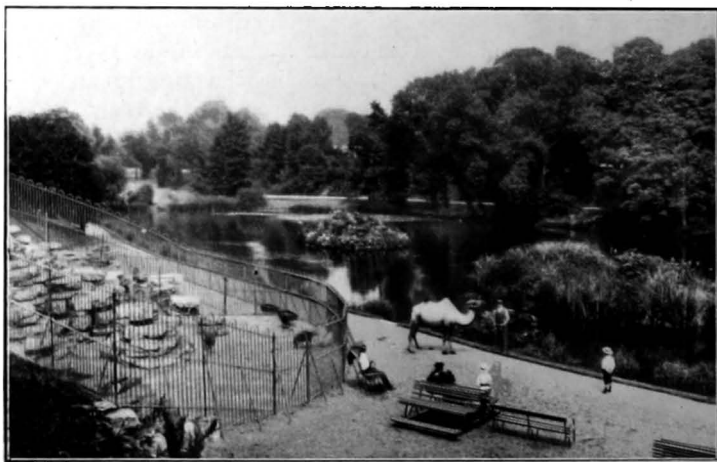
Modern Dublin.

THE eighteenth century in Ireland is known as "the period of the penal laws," the period of Protestant ascendancy, and it was marked by an almost continuous struggle between the British and Irish Parliaments; a struggle which only terminated with the passage of the Act of Union in 1800. Though Dublin, in common with the country at large, suffered during this period from the stringent and unenlightened restrictions on Irish manufactures and commerce, yet its population had a large share in any prosperity which a time of comparative rest, succeeding the struggles and turbulence of the preceding centuries, conferred on the island. The population, estimated in 1682 at 60,000, had more than doubled forty years later; and the number of inhabited houses rose between 1711 and 1728 by more than 4,000, an estimated increase of population of more than 30,000. About this time the suburbs of the city commenced that rapid development which has continued to the present day, so that the city of the Tudors and the Stuarts, cramped as it was within a very narrow circuit of walls, had, by the middle of the eighteenth century, reached a circumference of seven and a quarter miles, and had become in population and extent the second city in the kingdom, and the seventh city of Europe. This is particularly noteworthy, inasmuch as the population of the country generally remained almost stationary.

The great majority of our charitable institutions owe their foundation to the earlier portion of the eighteenth century; many of the parish churches and most of the more noteworthy public buildings for which Dublin is famous, and all its historic houses, were erected during this century.

The century was opened by the unveiling of the first equestrian monument erected in the streets of the city. It symbolised the period in as much as it represented William III., costumed as a Roman Emperor. This monument, though it has passed through many storms, still stands in College Green. That the increases in the population was not unaccompanied by distress amongst the poorer classes is strikingly evidenced by the passing, in 1703, of an Act of the Irish Parliament enforcing the erection of a workhouse

in the City of Dublin, "for employing and maintaining the poor thereof," to be supported by a tax levied on hackney coaches and sedan chairs and a rate of threepence in the pound on every house. This workhouse is now the South Dublin Union Workhouse in James's Street, and the present poor rate has reached the rather alarming figure of two shillings and twopence in the pound. Within the following five years the Castle Market in Dame Street, the new Custom House at Essex Bridge, and several churches were built, and the Ousel Galley for deciding mercantile disputes and Dublin Ballast Board were incorporated. Soon after Commissioners were appointed



W. Lawrence]

ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS, PHOENIX PARK.

[Photo., Dublin.

for widening the streets leading to Dublin Castle, and a new General Post Office was erected in a by-street off Dame Street.

About 1720 an undoubted want of small change was felt in Dublin and Ireland generally. To meet this want the English Government granted a patent to one of the King's mistresses, created Duchess of Kendal, and who was already in receipt of an annual pension of £3,000, charged on the Irish establishment. This patent the Duchess sold to a Huguenot hardware dealer, who had Englished his name of Dubois into "Wood," for £10,000. Wood further agreed to pay £1,000 a year to the Government for fourteen years. As the profit was estimated at £40,000, there was a good

margin left. Although the coin was very much wanted, it seems to have upset the inhabitants of the city very much that the profit should be divided between the King's mistress and Wood. This anger was the foundation of the celebrated *Drapier Letters*, written by Swift in the guise of a Dublin tradesman. The Irish Parliament, the Privy Council, the Lord Mayor and the Aldermen of Dublin had all protested in vain. One of the English Ministers had said "We will cram the brass down their throats," but the excitement caused by the *Drapier Letters* awed the Government, and finally the patent was withdrawn; Wood was compensated by a pension



W. Lawrence]

ST. MARY'S PRO-CATHEDRAL.

[Photo., Dublin.

of £3,000 per annum for eight years, just sufficient to cover his bargain with the Duchess and his own estimated profit of £14,000.

In 1729 the Houses of Parliament had met in the Bluecoat School in Osmantown, but in the same year was commenced that magnificent edifice the Parliament House, which a contemporary regarded as "infinitely superior in point of grandeur and magnificence to those of Westminster." The building as it stands to-day was completed about 1787, and the total cost of erection was only £95,000. In the same year a famine was experienced, and hundreds had to be fed daily in the dining-hall of the new workhouse. Two years later a similar visitation was experienced accompanied by pestilence. Yet in 1749 the Irish revenue showed a surplus of

£200,000, which gave occasion for a further struggle for parliamentary rights. The English Parliament held that this surplus belonged to the Crown, whilst the Irish Parliament resolved to apply it to a reduction of the National Debt. The Irish view was championed by the famous Dr. Charles Lucas, founder of the "Freeman's Journal," whose statue stands in the City Hall.

The failure of three of the Dublin Banks in 1755 drew attention to the risk to public credit consequent on banking being left entirely in the hands of private individuals. The bank established by David Digges La Touche had indeed weathered the storm, and in 1781 Newcomen's Bank was established in the premises now occupied by the City Treasurer, to the left of the City Hall. But the following year saw the foundation of a National Bank with a capital of £1,500,000. The Bank was to be known as the Bank of Ireland and was opened in premises in Mary's Abbey, David La Touche being appointed as first Governor.

In 1784 a greatly needed Paving Act was passed, and shortly after a Police Act was passed. Under the latter Act Dublin was divided into four districts, the watchmen re-organised and placed under the control of three paid Commissioners of the Peace, and a new force of regular police constituted consisting of forty-four men. The present Dublin Metropolitan Police Force consists of about 1,200 men, entirely controlled by the Irish Government in Dublin Castle.

The landing of a French force at Carrickfergus in 1760 had provided an opportunity for the organisation of a defence force of volunteers, and in a short time the volunteers had become a National institution, and with its growth had spread an agitation for legislative independence. By the end of 1781 the demand for the repeal of Poyning's Law and for the creation of a free Irish Parliament was backed by an armed force of 90,000 men, and when Parliament assembled in Dublin in 1782 the streets were lined by volunteer regiments and College Green was turned into a review ground. So it was that when Henry Grattan moved, for the second time, his famous Declaration of Rights, the Secretary of State in Ireland delivered a "gracious message from the King," and by an unanimous vote of the Irish House of Commons Ireland declared herself an independent nation.

The political turmoil of the last years of the eighteenth century does not seem to have checked the rapid growth and beautifying of



W. Lawrence]

KILLINEY HILL.

[*Photo., Dublin.*

the city. In 1781 the handsome structure of the present Custom House had been commenced on reclaimed land on the northern bank of the Liffey, and was completed in ten years. Five years later the present Four Courts was begun on the site of the old Kings' Inns, which had been removed to Henrietta Street, their present location, in 1765. The same year also saw the commencement of the Royal Military Infirmary on high ground in the south-east angle of the Phoenix Park. The Infirmary was completed in two years at a cost of £9,000. The year 1765 also saw the foundation of the Royal Irish Academy, which has since done so much for Irish learning. The Academy House is now in Dawson Street, and stored therein is a priceless collection of Irish manuscript literature. The Academy collection of Irish antiquities is now in the National Museum in Kildare Street, to which they were transferred in 1891. To all interested in art and antiquities this collection will be found of absorbing interest.

In 1789 the Royal Canal Company was incorporated, with a capital of £200,000, having been preceded thirty years earlier by the Grand Canal, but much of the latter system dates from the nineteenth century.

In 1794 the predecessor of the present O'Connell Bridge, Carlisle Bridge, was commenced. It has since been rebuilt and is now unique among bridges, being broader than it is long. When planned it was to have been ten feet wider than Westminster Bridge, but that limit has since been exceeded. Its central, or island, pathway, though connected with no other footway, is yet very much used, generally presenting an animated appearance. The building of this bridge first gave importance to Grafton Street, first mentioned in 1708, and named after the Duke of Grafton, son of Charles II. This street in the early and middle eighteenth century was entirely residentiary, containing the town houses of many of the Irish Peers, standing among gardens and open fields. The opening of the new bridge led to a revolutionary change in this street. Soon shops stood on the garden spaces of the houses of the nobility, and this change has been very much accentuated by the growth of the southern suburbs.

The nineteenth century opened inauspiciously for Dublin. The rebellion of 1798 had just been crushed, but embers of disaffection still smouldered, fanned by the general dissatisfaction with the abolition of the Irish Parliament, and the consequent loss to Dublin

of much of its importance. The sale in 1802 of the Parliament buildings to the Bank of Ireland emphasised this feeling; and in the summer of 1803 came the further rebellion under Robert Emmett, but the general dislike of the Union found a more popular exponent in Daniel O'Connell, a junior member of the Irish Bar. He inaugurated the new policy of parliamentary activity, which, much improved by Parnell, and after making an unwilling convert of so great an English statesman as Gladstone, still launches its tireless attacks on the Union, and continually reiterates its demand for a National Parliament seated in Dublin.

The improvement of the city, meanwhile, continued unchecked. What the city lost in prestige it strove to regain in other directions. The policing of the streets was again taken in hand and reformed in 1808; the Richmond Basin in Portobello, for the supply of water to the growing southern district, was opened in 1812, and six years later the General Post Office was provided with its present handsome and commodious premises in O'Connell or Sackville Street.

In 1825 the lighting of the city was taken in hand and gas lighting substituted for the old oil lamps which seem to have been more dangerous than useful. Nor was there any relaxation of philanthropic enterprise. The Cork Street Fever Hospital dates from 1804, and the Bedford Asylum, for 1,000 poor children, preceded by thirty years the inception of the Irish Poor Law. Sir Patrick Dun's Hospital was founded two years later, and about the same time were established many of the charitable institutions still working in the city.

In 1816 the first steam packet started from Dublin Harbour, nine years after the total loss of the transport *Rochdale* at Dunleary (now Kingstown), in which 300 lives were lost.

The facilities for communication between the Northern and Southern portions of the city continue to increase, Whitworth Bridge being built in 1816, Richmond Bridge in the same year, and shortly after Wellington Bridge, familiarly known as the "Metal Bridge" was erected. This latter bridge still charges tolls, and it was on this site that a modern Art Gallery for the city was suggested for erection some time ago. But the city, nevertheless, steadily declined in manufacturing energy and in the brilliance of its social life. The severe winter of 1814, during which the streets were for three weeks impassable through a heavy snowfall, caused great distress, and £13,000 was raised by subscription for the relief of the sufferers.

In 1821 Dublin again received the unusual favour of a Royal Visit. From the fifteenth century the only monarchs who visited Ireland were James II. and William III., and these solely for the purpose of fighting out in Ireland their conflicting claims to the Crown of England. For two nights the city was illuminated for the visit of George IV., and a permanent memorial still remains in the iron bridge across the Liffey known as Kingsbridge.

The year 1839 is unfortunate in the annals of Dublin. In that year a storm inflicted great damage on buildings; the Liffey overflowed its banks; and two very destructive fires were responsible for the loss of much life and property.

In 1853 was held in Dublin the first great Industrial Exhibition, due to the munificence of one William Dorgan, a railroad contractor, whose statue now stands on Leinster Lawn to commemorate his generosity.

In 1868 the new Vartry water supply was completed. Before this date the water was supplied from the canals, but chiefly through the influence and perseverance of Sir John Gray, whose statue now stands in Sackville Street, it was resolved to bring the water from the Vartry River in County Wicklow. The reservoir is at Roundwood, where, when the works at present in course of construction are complete, the storage capacity will be nearly 400,000,000 gallons. The water is brought by a tunnel nearly three miles long, and by pipes to the distributing reservoirs at Stillorgan, about four miles from the city boundary. This lower reservoir is nearly 250ft. above the level of the Quay. The supply of water is large and constant; the quality is good; and only once, in 1893, had the amount used to be curtailed, although it is supplied not only to the city and neighbouring townships, but to the district between Dublin and Bray.

Towards the end of 1881 the present South City Markets were erected in South Great George's Street, and four years later the first electric tramway from Haddington Road to Dalkey was opened. There was a good system of horse trams running from 1872.

In 1881 the lighting of the city by electricity was started in a tentative way, but now almost the entire city is excellently illuminated by electricity.

No record of nineteenth century Dublin would be complete without a reference to its two beautiful cemeteries at Glasnevin and Mount Jerome, both of which were opened early in the century to replace the overcrowded parish graveyards, and both of which are very well worthy of a visit.



W. Lawrence]

KINGSTOWN HARBOUR AND PAVILION.

[Photo., Dublin.



W. Lawrence]

MAIN ROAD AND WELLINGTON MONUMENT, PHOENIX PARK.

[Photo., Dublin.]

The Dublin of to-day differs essentially from that of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. She has cast off the idiosyncracies and peculiarities of a provincial metropolis, and has put on the cosmopolitan sameness of modern European capitals. To find in her that historic interest which attaches to cities like Venice, Florence, or Rouen, we must dive beneath that crust of cosmopolitanism, and search amongst her early records in the City Hall.

But the Irish capital, in losing much by the march of progress, has gained many compensating advantages. The "dear, dirty Dublin" of Lady Morgan is now a thing of the past, and instead we have good streets, wide, well-kept, and well-lighted; and she possesses in her tramways, though privately controlled, a system of internal communication unsurpassed by any European capital. She has still her unrivalled public buildings, and has added to them many structures of beauty and interest. Her outskirts, both in charm and variety of scenery, are unequalled by those of any other city in the British dominions. She possesses in Kingstown, Dalkey, Bray, and Greystones watering-places accessible within an hour from the centre of the city; and the bold cliffs of Howth, the pastoral loveliness of Lucan, the beautiful coast scenery of Killiney, and the wild romantic defiles of the Dublin mountains, are all within easy reach of the resident or the visitor. Her citizens have in the Phoenix Park a playground which for extent and variety is rarely equalled in the immediate vicinity of any city of equal population. No fitter conclusion can I find for this necessarily very brief sketch of her history than a short description of the park, of which Dublin is justly proud.

On the north-west boundary of the city lies a portion of the confiscated lands of the Knights of St. John of Jerusalem, whose Castle at Kilmainham is now the Royal Hospital, in which old army pensioners reside on the same system as in Chelsea Hospital, London. The Royal Hospital is also the official residence of the Commander-in-Chief of the Army in Ireland. In the hospital is an interesting Armoury Museum, which is well worth a visit. These confiscated lands consisted of a plateau rising from the northern bank of the Liffey, comprising within its enclosure no less than 1,760 acres of woodland and pasture. On the suppression of the monasteries by Henry VIII. these lands were surrendered to the Crown by Sir John Rawson, Prior of Kilmainham, and in the reign of Charles II. were enclosed as a deer park by the Viceroy, the famous James, Duke of Ormond, who purchased in addition, by

desire of the king, the adjoining lands of Phoenix and Newtown, and part of the lands of Chapelizod. The park at this time extended on both sides of the Liffey, but the depredations of trespassers led to the enclosure of the park on the north side of the river. This task was undertaken by Sir John Temple, afterwards Lord Palmerston, on condition that he should receive a sum of £200 from the Treasury, and in addition a grant of all the park land excluded by the Wall from the Dublin Gates to Chapelizod; which conditions received the king's assent, and the park was enclosed. The first ranger of the park was appointed by Charles II.; and about 1751 the Rt. Hon. Nathaniel Clements, father of Lord Leitrim, built a handsome lodge, which was, in 1784, purchased from him by the Government as a residence for the Lord Lieutenant. This is now the Viceregal Lodge. It was not until the middle of the eighteenth century that the park was made available to the general public. It was laid out and thrown open to the public by Lord Chesterfield, who was Lord Lieutenant from 1745 to 1747. The name of the lands comprised in the park, "Fionn-aisge," pronounced Fien-ishk, and meaning "clear water," from a spring in the park, had been Anglicised into "Phoenix." This erroneous appellation was perpetuated by the Viceroy, Lord Chesterfield, in 1747 by the erection "in the centre of the ring of the deer park near Dublin" of a marble Corinthian column, 30 feet high, and crowned by a phoenix rising from gilded flames, in allusion to the classical myth. This erection is popularly known to Dubliners as "the Eagle Monument." In 1812 the Duke of Richmond stocked the park with fallow deer, of which over 600 are now in the park.

From the main entrance in Parkgate Street, a broad, straight, and level road, of two miles in length, runs directly through the park to the Castleknock Gate at its western extremity. On the right of the main entrance lie the People's Gardens, well planted and beautifully laid out. These gardens on almost every day during the summer are thronged with residents or visitors, who seem to realise the boon they possess in such a pleasure ground. On the left is the granite obelisk of the Wellington Memorial, having on the four sides of its base bronze tablets commemorating his victories. Beyond the People's Gardens, a turning to the right leads to the Zoological Gardens, beautifully situated on the banks of a small artificial lake. These gardens were laid out and enclosed in 1833, two years after the foundation of the Irish Zoological Society, on ground granted by the Duke of Northumberland, then Lord Lieutenant. In 1840 was

inaugurated the custom of admission to the gardens for 1d., but this was later raised to 2d. for adults and 1d. for children. Admission on weekdays is 1s., and holidays, 6d. The Government grants £500 per annum towards the upkeep of the gardens, but this sum is sadly insufficient to maintain the gardens in an efficient state. The deficit is made up of members' subscriptions and admission fees. The very successful lion breeding establishment adds something to the resources of the Society, and private benefactions have greatly improved the housing of the birds and the

*W. Lawrence]*

PEOPLE'S GARDENS, PHENIX PARK.

[Photo., Dublin.

larger carnivora. The headquarters of the Royal Irish Constabulary are close to the Zoological Gardens.

Proceeding westward, we pass the Viceregal Lodge and the residences of the Chief and Under Secretaries for Ireland. There are many picturesque nooks within the precincts of the park, of which the prettiest probably is the gorse-clad hollow, with its quiet pool, near the Knockmaroon Gate, known as the "Furry" Glen. On the left of the main road is the famous review ground, the "fifteen acres," the area of which is nearly 200 acres—not fifteen, as might be supposed. Here in the old duelling days many famous duels

were fought, but now almost the entire area is laid out in winter as football grounds. Within the area of the park are many fine cricket grounds, and also the headquarters of the All-Ireland Polo Club, where polo matches may generally be witnessed free throughout the summer.

On the whole, the park is something of which Dublin is proud; its area is twice that of Hyde and Regent Parks combined, and though it is nominally a royal park, no restriction of any kind is placed on visitors.

I. P. B.



W. Lawrence]

VICEREGAL LODGE, PHOENIX PARK.

[*Photo., Dublin.*

Dublin's Famous Buildings.



W. Lawrence]

NATIONAL LIERARY.

[*Photo, Dublin*

Dublin's Famous Buildings.

AS has been already pointed out nearly all the buildings for which Dublin is famed were erected during the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. Some few are earlier, such as the Cathedrals; and some few are later, as the National Museum and Art Gallery and the College of Surgeons. But in the main it may still be said that externally Dublin belongs to the later eighteenth century.

The building of which all Dubliners are extremely proud is that now occupied by the Bank of Ireland, but once the Parliament House of Ireland. It is the most central, the best situated, and the most beautiful building in the city. The building is nearly semi-circular, and covers about one and a half acres. The principal front faces College Green and consists of a grand Ionic colonnade, 147 feet long, occupying three sides of a courtyard; the columns are lofty and rest on a flight of steps continued round the courtyard to the extremities of the colonnade where are the entrances under two lofty archways. The four central columns are advanced, and support a pediment with the Royal Arms in the tympanum and a figure of Hibernia on the apex, with Fidelity on her right and Commerce on her left. The figures were modelled by Flaxman, and cost £1,587. The east front, facing College Street, consists of a large gateway and a noble portico of six Corinthian columns, with a figure of Fortitude on the apex and figures of Justice and Liberty on either side. The entrance to the House of Lords used to be under this portico; it is now built up, but part of the lamp hook remains over the keystone. The west front is again of the Ionic order, and consists of four columns supporting a pediment. The side porticos are connected with the centre by circular screen walls with rusticated basement and niches separated by three greater columns as lofty as those of the porticos. The building was commenced in 1729, from the designs, it is supposed, of Cassels, and the erection was carried out under the direction of Sir Edward Pearce (Engineer-General) and Arthur Dobbs, and completed in 1794. The total cost of erection was £95,000. When, with the passage of the Act of Union in 1800, the building was left untenanted, it was sold to the Bank of Ireland



W. Lawrence]

THE PARLIAMENT HOUSE (now Bank of Ireland).

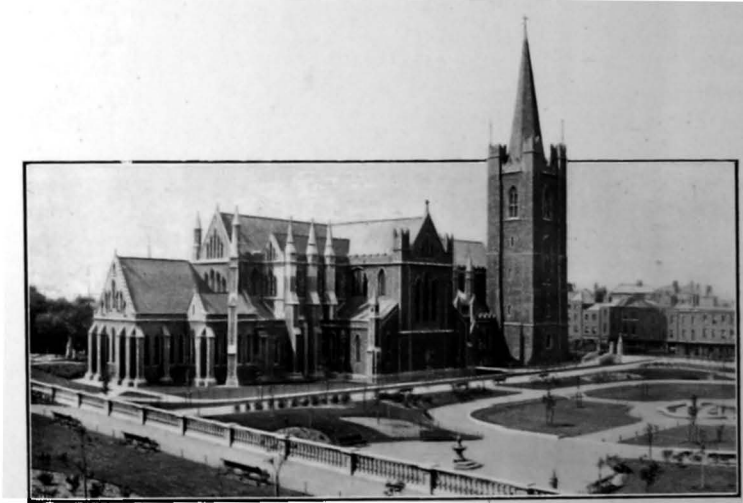
[Photo., Dublin.

for £40,000, subject to a ground rent of £240 per annum. Admission may be obtained on application to the porter.

Across College Green from the Bank of Ireland lies Trinity College or Dublin University. Within the walls of this ancient institution are now included buildings so numerous and interesting that delegates can only be advised to visit them and see for themselves. The College covers an area of some twenty-eight acres, so an enjoyable sojourn may be anticipated. The west front facing College Green is a Palladian façade, 300 feet long by 65 feet high. The gateway is flanked on either side by Corinthian columns resting on bases of rustic ashlar, and supporting a bold pediment surmounted by an entablature, the centre of which is occupied by a clock, 6½ feet in diameter. The wings of the front are formed by projecting pavilions, decorated with Corinthian pilasters, supporting an attic storey crowned with a balustrade. Practically nothing of the original buildings of the Tudor and Stuart periods now remains, the oldest building still surviving being the east side of the Library Square, and it dates only from the reign of Queen Anne. Viewed from College Green, the main front of Trinity is not very imposing, but if the visitor will view it from Westmoreland Street and take it in conjunction with the east front of the old Parliament House a different conception can be had. Delegates should visit the library and see the Book of Kells, a beautifully illuminated early Irish manuscript.

To the Rt. Hon. John Beresford, brother of the first Marquis of Waterford, Dublin owes much. He was a Commissioner of Revenue, and sat in the Irish Parliament for forty-four years. He had princely ideas for the improvement of Dublin, and some of them he executed. He widened and extended the quays, connected Sackville Street with the Parliament House, and built the Custom House. He procured the design from James Gaudon, and, in the face of much opposition, proceeded to have it carried into effect. The foundation was laid in 1781, and the building was completed ten years later at a cost of £250,000. The result of Beresford's perseverance is the beautiful structure now disfigured by the unsightly railway viaduct erected in 1891. The building, being built on what was at the time a swamp, has the unusual advantage of isolation, thus having four sides answering almost directly to the compass points. It is in the form of an oblong quadrangle, 375 feet long and 205 feet deep, the southern front facing the river. In the centre of this is a handsome Doric portico flanked by open

arcades, which are carried round the building. Within are two courts divided by a central pile 131 feet broad and extending the whole depth from north to south. The portico is surmounted by a projecting cornice, elaborately sculptured. The frieze above the portico is enriched with ox-heads festooned with hides. From the centre of the building rises a graceful octagonal, richly-pillared cupola, attaining a height of 113 feet above the ground level; the dome is covered with copper and crowned by a circular pedestal supporting a 12 foot figure of Hope resting on an anchor. The statues are Neptune, Mercury, Plenty, Industry, Africa, Asia,

*W. Lawrence]*

ST. PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL.

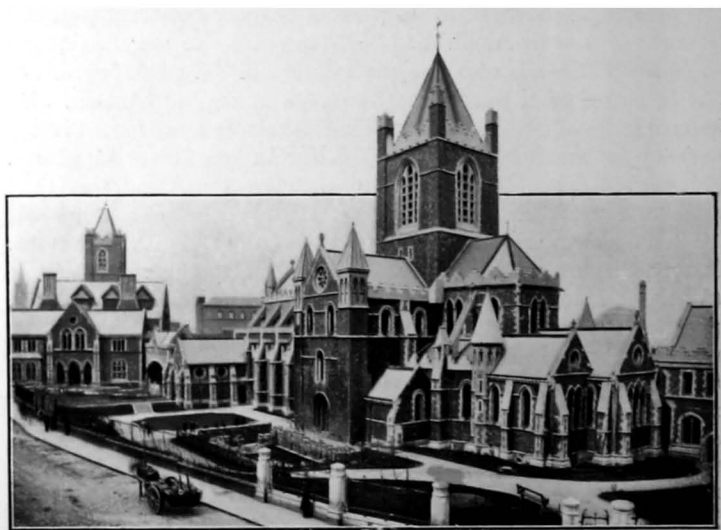
[Photo, Dublin

Europe, and America. The building is now used by the Local Government Board for Ireland, and is divided into numerous small offices, spoiling the building internally.

Dublin's chief memorial of the Anglo-Norman period of her history is the Cathedral of St. Patrick, in the Liberties. This Cathedral has since 1872 been the National Cathedral of the Church of Ireland, having a common relationship to all the Dioceses in the country. The Cathedral was founded, as we have already seen, in 1190 by Archbishop Comyn, and erected into a Cathedral twenty-three years later by his successor to the See, Henry de Londres, and has since had a chequered existence, until in 1865 the shattered

and decayed fabric was renewed by the munificence of a private citizen, whose family has since done all that was necessary to its complete restoration. In 1316 the spire was blown down, and in the same year part of the building was burned by the citizens on hearing of the approach of King Edward Bruce. In 1362 the nave was burned down through the carelessness of the sexton. This damage was repaired by Archbishop Minot, by whom "sixty straggling and idle fellows were taken up and obliged to assist in repairing the church and rebuilding the steeple, who, when the work was over, returned to their old trade of begging and were banished from the diocese by Archbishop de Wikeford." To the exertions of Archbishop Minot is also due the erection of the great tower, 147 feet in height from the floor of the nave to the battlements, with walls of Irish limestone, 10 feet thick, and said by Dean (now Bishop) Bernard to be unsurpassed as a belfry in the three Kingdoms. This tower is strangely out of square with the church and, therefore, presents a rather bizarre appearance. In 1544 the great stone roof fell in at the western end, and in 1633 the Lady Chapel was in ruins. In 1784 the north transept was also in ruins, but this was rebuilt in 1822; and in 1792 the wall and roof of the nave were found to be in a perilous position, the wall having gone over 2 feet out of the perpendicular. The first strenuous effort to preserve the structure was made by Dean Pakenham, 1845-52, who restored the choir and the Lady Chapel and effected many necessary repairs. But it was not till 1864 that anything like a complete restoration was ever attempted. In that year Sir Benjamin Lee Guinness undertook at his own expense the complete renewal, within and without, of the dilapidated building, and the work was executed by 1865 at a total cost of £150,000. The park which now bounds the Cathedral on the northern side was laid out by Viscount Iveagh some five years ago in pursuance of a scheme of slum clearing and erecting sanitary dwellings. "The ground plan," says Sir Thomas Drew, "is of singular beauty of proportion and perfect symmetry, of which there is no similar example in England. It reveals itself as the design of a mathematical mind which arrived at the proportions of a Latin Cross by the placing together of a number of absolutely uniform equilateral triangles, which are found to agree in indicating the widths and proportions of every main feature." The external length from south to west is 300 feet, exclusive of the aisles measuring 132 feet 6 inches by 30 feet, the external breadth across the transepts is 156 feet, and the height from floor to roof in the nave and choir is 56 feet.

The Cathedral is inseparably connected with the memory of Dean Swift. In a glass case are exhibited many of his autographs, and there is also a fine bust in Carrara marble of the great Dean. Close to the door of the robing-room is the epitaph to "Stella," and above the door the more famous epitaph composed by Swift for himself. There are many objects of interest, not to mention the inherent interest of the building itself, which will repay a visit. In St. Patrick's Close is Marsh's Library with 20,000 volumes and about 200 manuscripts.



W. Lawrence]

CHRISTCHURCH CATHEDRAL.

[Photo., Dublin.

The Cathedral of the Holy Trinity, or Christchurch, in Christchurch Place, still possesses some remains of the Scandinavian King Sygtrygg Silkbeard. In 1172 it was enlarged at the instance of St. Laurence O'Toole, Archbishop of Dublin, by the addition of a choir, a steeple, and two chapels, which expense was borne by Earls Strongbow and Raymond le Gros. Successive alterations up to 1225 had by that date entirely remodelled the Danish building. After a long series of misfortunes, which had reduced it to a mere fragment of the original structure, the church was restored in 1871-8 at a cost of £166,000, by the munificence of the Dublin distiller, Henry Roe, D.L., under the direction of George Street, R.A., architect. It was

not till the opening of Lord Edward Street in 1886 that any adequate view of Christchurch could be obtained, and since 1872 the church has been the Cathedral of the United Church of Ireland Dioceses of Dublin, Kildare, and Glendalough. Architecturally, the church may be classed as Norman, though traces of other styles may be recognised throughout the building. The crypt is of Danish design, and possesses many objects of interest. The wooden stocks, now over 200 years old, which once stood in Christchurch Yard, are here in good preservation. In the eastern sub-chapels are the tabernacle and candlesticks formerly used in the Cathedral for the celebration of mass. In the crypt also are the statues of Charles II. and James II., which once ornamented the Tholsel at the corner of Nicholas Street. The Cathedral precincts are also interesting. South of the remains of the old Chapter House, of beautifully moulded thirteenth century work, lay the calefactory of the old monastic establishment, separated from the former by the *Slype*. This was the site of a passage popularly known as "Hell," it is supposed, from the black figure believed to represent the devil, to which Burns refers in the lines—

Is just as true the De'il's in Hell,
Or Dublin City.

The City Hall is a strikingly handsome building. It has a portico of six Corinthian columns, the last two at each end being coupled, with an entablature which is continued round three sides of the building. On the main front this is surmounted by a pediment, the other sides being crowned by a balustrade. The height of the building, and the absence of a tambour to the dome, renders the latter inconspicuous from almost any point of view. The sharp descent of the ground from west to east at Cork Hill necessitated the construction in front of the main façade of a terrace level with the ground at its western end, and accessible from the eastern end by a long and wide flight of steps. The present approach to the building is by two openings in the boundary wall facing north, raised respectively by three and four steps from the footway.

On entering the building the visitor finds himself in a quaintly flagged central hall, the original plan of which was an inscribed circle in a square. This effect has, however, been greatly injured by the blocking of the ambulatories enclosing the circular area, to provide office accommodation and stairways. It remains, nevertheless, a very beautiful interior, surrounded by twelve fluted columns, 32 feet



W. Lawrence]

NATIONAL MUSEUM.

[Photo., Dublin.

high, forming a rotunda, and supporting an entablature above which rises another storey crowned with a dome. Statues of celebrated Irishmen and persons connected with Ireland ornament this court.

The meetings of the Corporation are held in the upper hall, extending along the northern front. This Council Chamber is adorned with portraits of former occupants of the civic chair. In the muniment room are preserved the city regalia and a very valuable collection of ancient manuscripts and Royal Charters.

The City Hall was built in 1769 as the Royal Exchange, but the Corporation has continuously occupied it since the supersession of the old Tholsel. Some of the city offices are soon to be removed to the new buildings to be erected on the southern side of Lord Edward Street.

Of Dublin's modern buildings perhaps the finest are those in Kildare Street, occupied respectively by the National Library and National Museum. These buildings were erected in 1883 at a cost of £150,000, from the designs of Sir Thomas Deane, and were opened in 1890 by the Earl of Zetland, Lord Lieutenant.

On entering the handsomely-wrought iron gateway the Library is to the left and the Museum to the right. Externally, both present the same architectural features. Internally, both are extremely rich in ornamentation, magnificent stucco and stone-work, beautifully carved doors, and fine mosaic work being a constant source of pleasure to the visitor.

Of the Library nothing more may be said than that it affords the students of the city, and any others inclined to letters, all the joys of a comprehensive, well-arranged collection of books. Every bookman will understand what this means and judge for himself. Of course, the Museum is much the more popular institution, but is in its way no less instructive than the Library. Here may be found the most comprehensive, valuable, and magnificent collection of Celtic ornaments and objects of utility in the world. Here may be seen the Cross of Cong, the Ardagh Chalice, St. Patrick's Bell, and the Tara, Ardagh, and Roscrea Brooches. Some of these will be familiar from the many reproductions now available, but if one is to appreciate thoroughly the workmanship of these antiques they must be seen in the original.

Connected with the National Museum is the Natural History Museum, with a very complete collection of Irish fauna, including specimens of the famous Irish elk.

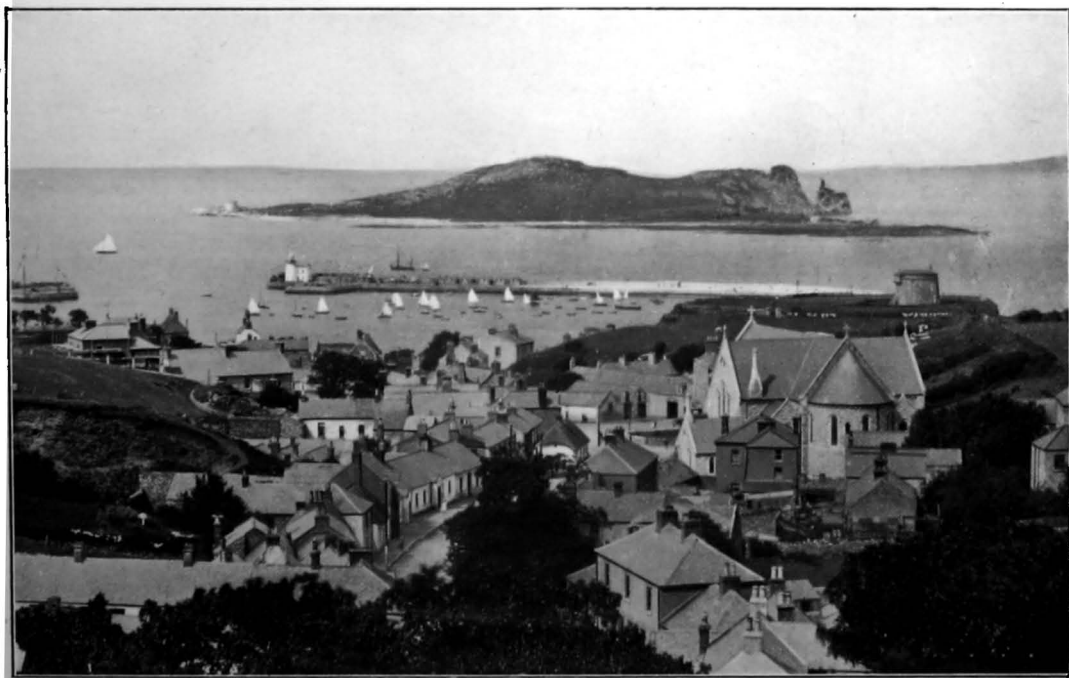
On the northern side of Leinster Lawn is the National Gallery of Ireland and the National Portrait Gallery. This Gallery is reputed one of the best of the smaller galleries of Europe, and possesses a good collection of old masters. The Portrait Gallery is rich in historical interest.

There are many other buildings possessing interest for the amateur architect or the antiquarian, but space forbids further elaborate description. The Four Courts, the legal centre of Ireland; the King's Inns in Henrietta Street, the Law School and Law Library; the General Post Office, in Sackville Street; the College of Surgeons on St. Stephen's Green, and the College of Physicians in Kildare Street; the Rotunda, where Robert Owen lectured in 1823; many of the churches (a list of which will be found elsewhere), and some of the Hospitals; the famous brewery of A. Guinness, Son, and Co., are all worth visiting if opportunity offers. But it is much more probable that delegates will desire outdoor rather than indoor sightseeing. There is probably no city in the world so rich in naturally beautiful surroundings as Dublin, and it can only be hoped that if delegates have not time enough to see them all on this occasion they will visit us again, and they may always be certain of a hearty Irish welcome from the Co-operators of the city particularly and of the country generally.

L.P.B.



Dublin: Commercial.



HOWTH HARBOUR AND IRELAND'S EYE.

Dublin: Commercial.

THE historians of the past paid but scant attention to the comparatively uneventful lives of the great masses of people constituting the world. Hitherto history has been almost entirely a record of the warring and intriguing of the families known to the world as "the nobility," but of later years it has come to be understood that, however lowly they were considered, the population of a country have had causes and effects of historical importance. At least it is acknowledged that "the people" supplied both the soldiers and the sinews of war for these magnificent incidents, the description of which has hitherto constituted history. Dublin is no exception to this method of treatment, and now when we have seen the comings and goings of kings, princes, lords, and the Lord Protector we may possibly like to glance for a short time at the people behind all this vain pageantry whose names will never emblazon the pages of history, but the results of whose patient work are still with us, and may even outlast the memory of the kings and princes whose temporary home Dublin was. We will, therefore, in the course of the following few pages consider briefly the commercial, industrial, and social conditions of the people whose permanent home was in our city.

The commerce of Dublin, though never at any period of its history what would now be termed great, is of great antiquity. The Sea Laws in the old Brehon Code prove clearly the existence of oversea trade, which seems to have been considerable in pagan Ireland. Some modern historians are of opinion that Ireland had constant commercial intercourse with Tyre and Carthage, and it is quite certain that there was trade with Greece, for Greek merchants attended at that time far-away Wexford, the famous Fair of Carmen. At that fair there was a special market for the foreigners who sold silver and gold ornaments and other precious stuffs. The Roman geographers held such an important opinion of ancient Ireland commercially that they spoke of it as midway between Spain and Britain. Tacitus, in the first century of the Christian era, tells us that the ports of Ireland were better known to the merchants and traders, by reason of the abundance of commerce, than those of Britain, and Juvenal's *Satires* attest the important fact that in his

time Irish woollen goods were sold in Rome. Ptolemy, about the year 130 A.D., enumerates three *illustrious* Irish seaports, which must have been in existence for some time, or he would not have thought them worthy of such notice; and about the same time a native annalist records that Eoghan More, King of Munster, broke his treaty with the King of Ireland when he found that his half of the kingdom did not include Dublin, "which was commodious for traffic and visited by ships." It may be of interest to remark that Ptolemy and Eoghan More flourished almost contemporaneously. Although the alleged builders of Irish seaports—the Norse—did not arrive here before the eighth century, a sixth century author of the *Life of St. Kevin* speaks of Dublin thus: "The city is powerful and warlike and always inhabited by men most handy in battle and most expert in fleets." An old poem, translated by Dr. Sigerson, makes St. Patrick invoke—

Gift of Commerce from all parts,
 Gift of ever-widening marts,
 Gift in Church of reverent hearts—
 Bless stout Dublin town.

It is sufficient for us here to know that Dublin, before the advent of the Norsemen, had trade with Gaul, Spain, England, and Scotland, and, during Norse times, Prof. Bugge, of Christiania, tells us the commercial capital was certainly Dublin.

At the time of the Norman invasion William of Newburgh styles Dublin "a noble maritime city, the metropolis of Ireland, and about the rival of London for commerce and abundance of its port." As noticed before, Henry II. granted Dublin to his men of Bristol, and the city was cleared of its Norse and Irish inhabitants, but the men who took their places had Norse and Danish names and not Norman as would be expected. These newcomers carried on a steady trade with English ports, but the continental trade seems to have almost disappeared. From the thirteenth to the sixteenth century the continental trade was diverted to other ports, and to such an extent that the customs receipts from French, Spanish, and Portuguese trade at Dublin were less than a third of those at New Ross.

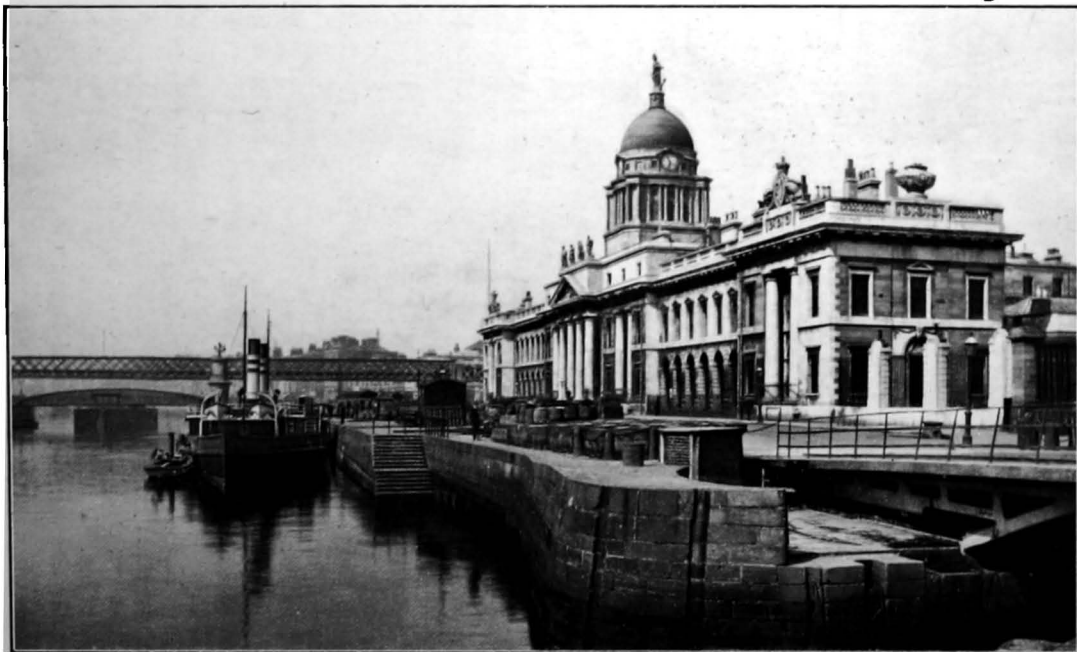
The relentless war on Irish trade inaugurated by the Tudor sovereigns had the effect of almost completely stopping all trade except that with England, and this policy was pursued by Tudor, Commonwealth, and Stuart Governments without exception until 1779, when the volunteers assembled in College Green, and on the

mouths of their cannon hung the demand, "Free Trade—or This." The freedom to trade was conceded, but not until, as Lord Dufferin said:

One by one our nascent industries were either strangled in their birth or handed over gagged and bound to the jealous custody of the rival interests in England, until at last every fountain of wealth was hermetically sealed, and even the traditions of commercial enterprise have perished through desuetude.

When the right to trade had been conceded, and a free Parliament won, things began to assume a brighter aspect. For the ten years 1776–1786 tonnage entering the port was—Foreign, 15,983 tons; British, 232,600 tons; and for the ten years 1786–1796 the figures were—Foreign, 167,489 tons; British, 1,226,770 tons; Irish, 1,021,878 tons. In 1786 complete control of the port was given by Parliament to a body specially created for the purpose and named "The Corporation for Preserving and Improving the Port of Dublin." The great sand bar which crosses Dublin Bay has always been, and is still, but to a much less extent, a hindrance to shipping, and to the dredging of this and the port generally the energy of the new body was directed. These dredging operations are being continued to-day, over 5,000,000 tons of sand having been dredged from the "bar" during the past few years. At present large steamers can enter the port at all tides; indeed, Dublin is the only harbour in which the "Great Eastern" was ever moored to a wall (1888–9).

In bygone days the Port of Dublin was in the centre of the city; indeed, so late as 1728 the Custom House was at what is now Wellington Quay. As the tonnage of ships increased it became necessary to go further down the river. At one time the cutting of a ship canal, starting at Kingstown, was considered to be the only way to save the port from extinction, but with the erection of the South Wall, and, later, of the North Wall, this idea was abandoned. The utility of the port was greatly increased by the construction of the Custom House Docks, at a cost of over £700,000. These Docks were constructed by order of the Irish Parliament, which did not live to see the work completed. They cover eight acres in extent, and are 16 feet deep. Private dock accommodation is also in existence—the Spencer and the Royal Canal Docks owned by the Midland Great Western Railway, and the Ringsend Docks on the south side of the river owned by the Grand Canal Company. The total length of quay accommodation at the port is over three and a half miles, equipped with every modern appliance for the ready and expeditious



W. Lawrence]

THE CUSTOM HOUSE.

[Photo, Dublin.

handling of goods. The present Custom House was completed in 1791, at a cost of over £250,000.

The trade of Dublin will seem insignificant if set beside any of the great English or Scotch seaports, but, such as it is, Dublin thinks well of it. In 1912 8,086 ships came into the port with cargo, and 5,052 left with cargo, and 255 ships have Dublin as their port of register. The export trade from Dublin consists of stout, whiskey, and cattle, and small quantities of other merchandise. The import trade, valued in 1912 at £3,258,654, is of a very miscellaneous character, almost every article of modern commerce figuring in the list. The city being largely a distributing centre for the rest of Ireland, large numbers find employment in distribution, over 5,000 people being employed at the quays alone.

Complete control of the river and the port is now vested in the Dublin Port and Docks Board, constituted as follows:—The Lord Mayor, six members of the City Council, twelve trader members, and nine shipping members, making a total of twenty-eight. The qualifications of both members and electors are such that the city has no effective control of the Board, and in a recent dispute the Board openly flouted the expressed opinions of the citizens, and no method of redress was available.

L.P.B.





W. Lawrence]

ST. STEPHEN'S GREEN PARK.

[Photo., Dublin,

Dublin: Industrial.



W Lawrence]

WESTMORELAND STREET AND MOORE MONUMENT.

[Photo., Dublin.]

Dublin: Industrial.

EARLY history is generally clouded, but it may be said that early economic history is almost hidden. We know that people came and went, lived and died, but how they lived and worked, what they produced, and how they produced, are questions still in the domain of controversial archæology. The industrial history of Dublin is still as hazy and as controversial as can well be imagined. If we accept as true the dictum that a community which has no history is therefore happy, we may conclude that until the seventeenth century Dublin was a happy community, for it was not until the accession of Charles I. that the industry of Dublin and of Ireland generally began to attract attention.

Down to the seventeenth century Ireland, like England, was largely a pastoral country. In both countries agriculture was the principal industry; numerous herds of cattle, sheep, horses, and pigs being raised by the inhabitants. So it came about that any manufacturing industries that existed were bound up with this important pursuit. Dublin seems to have had particular interest in the textile trades—woollen, cotton, linen, and silk—but wool was the staple industry of Ireland in the seventeenth century, and Dublin was at that time one of the chief centres of the trade. Such were the advantages the city possessed in the obtaining of raw material for manufacture, abundance of skilled labour and low living cost, that woollen manufacturers from the west of England were induced to settle there. In 1698 it was estimated that 12,000 families were employed in the manufacture of woollen goods. This state of comparative prosperity was destined to be but short lived, as it aroused the jealousy of the English manufacturers, and through their influence repressive legislation was enacted which completely killed the industry. Petitions were sent up to Parliament from many English towns praying for the restriction of the Irish woollen industry. Parliament handed on the petitions to the king, and in his reply to the Address of the House of Commons William III. gave this answer, fraught with such terrible consequences to the city: "I shall do all that in me lies to discourage the woollen trade in Ireland, and encourage the linen manufacture there, and to

promote the trade of England." To such good effect was this promise kept that throughout the eighteenth century the industry hardly existed in Dublin. After 1779 the trade revived somewhat, and in 1792 there were 400 broad and 100 narrow looms, employing over 5,000 persons engaged in the manufacture of woollen goods. With the Union came another period of depression, and in 1822 it was reported that 2,885 persons were employed. In 1838 the number had dwindled to 250, and even this small number was, we are told, kept idle for three months of the year.

Throughout the nineteenth century the woollen trade of Dublin was dead, but in 1904 a small factory was opened in the city, which is now in a prosperous condition. The introduction of steam power to the woollen industry gave the trade in Dublin its *coup de grace*. The Dublin manufacturers were unable to withstand the competition of the Yorkshire manufacturers, with all their advantages of cheap fuel, great capital, localised industry, and division of labour carried to the highest degree. The inauguration of steamship communication between Dublin and Liverpool in 1824 focussed this competition, and, coming as it did but a year after the complete withdrawal of the Irish tariff on woollen goods, its effect cannot be minimised. In short, therefore, the famous woollen industry, once the pride and staple of Dublin, has almost disappeared.

When the woollen trade was crushed Irish brains and labour were directed to the development of the linen industry, for which object support was promised by the English King and Parliament. The Irish Parliament, too, gave every encouragement. The Linen Board was appointed; the Linen Hall built as a market place and habitat of the Board; experts from Holland were procured to teach the art of cambric weaving; machinery, and buildings were erected to encourage the printing of linens; but, despite all efforts, Dublin never became a great linen manufacturing centre. The affairs of the trade were directed from Dublin, and most of the export business was transacted in Dublin, but the city partook more of the nature of a mart than a seat of manufacture. To-day Dublin has but one linen factory, whose establishment dates back but forty years. About 400 persons find employment therein. The cotton industry flourished for a short time, but after the Union disappeared entirely.

It may be of some interest to delegates to learn that there existed in Dublin in 1816 a Co-operative cotton factory. In that year 300 looms were employed in the industry, of which 100 were owned by "master manufacturers." The remaining 200 were controlled

and worked by cotton weavers, who had joined together and started manufacturing on their own account. This association established a *dépôt* for their goods, and held a regular market in the Liberties.

The history of Dublin shipbuilding is short and tragic. The early years of the nineteenth century found it well established, but the combination of ship carpenters then, by their limitation of apprentices, succeeded in cramping the industry, and ultimately driving it from the city altogether. For several decades the industry was unknown to Dublin, but in 1902 it was revived by the establishment of the Dublin Dockyard Company, which now employs over 600 men in the construction and repair of ships.

As in other towns, industries have come and gone with the varying social and economic conditions. Of this type are the coachbuilding, leather, brewing, and distilling industries. Coachbuilding still lingers; leather has gone long since; but the brewing and distilling industries still flourish. Dublin possesses the brewery with the largest output in the world, together with several smaller breweries. The firm of Guinness gives employment to nearly 4,000 men, and pays excise duty of over £1,500,000 annually. There are nearly 3,000 people employed in the half dozen distilleries working.

The textile group, as it was in Dublin, included one of the city's oldest and few remaining industries, that of silk and poplin weaving. Dublin owes this industry to French refugees who settled in the city in 1681. To these refugees we owe the peculiar gable-fronted houses which are still to be seen grouped here and there in the older parts in the city, but particularly in the district of the Liberties known as Weavers' Square. Every branch of the silk trade was practised, but special energy seems to have been directed to the manufacture of poplin. This article, it may be explained, is a combination of silk and wool, woven with a silk warp and woollen weft. It is so made that the surface on both sides is all silk, the wool being used as a foundation. In 1786 over 11,000 persons found employment in the silk trade, with 3,000 looms at work. In 1824 the number of persons employed had fallen to 6,000, and the number of looms to 1,200. In 1890 70 looms were employed; in 1898, 87; in 1903, 117; and in 1911, 193. At present, in all branches of the trade, about 700 persons are employed by the four firms now left to represent Dublin's once famous silk and poplin industry.

Various industries have sprung up to replace those decayed, but none have attained to any considerable importance, as will be seen

from the following table illustrating the economic distribution of the city's population, taken from the 1911 census returns:—

CLASS—	Persons.	Males.	Females.
I. Professional	18,438 ...	13,950 ...	4,488
II. Domestic.....	18,232 ...	2,636 ...	15,596
III. Commercial	22,945 ...	20,910 ...	2,035
IV. Agricultural	2,276 ...	2,152 ...	124
V. Industrial.....	73,175 ...	54,579 ...	18,596
VI. Indefinite and Non-productive.....	169,736 ...	53,429 ...	116,307
TOTAL	304,802 ...	147,656 ...	157,146

In connection with the above it may be mentioned that in the industrial class are 17,269 "general labourers," which will help to shed some light on the industrial condition of Dublin. Of course, the great industry of Dublin is brewing and distilling. There are four breweries and five distilleries in the city, giving employment to about 9,000 persons, of whom nearly half are employed by the famous brewing firm of A. Guinness, Son, and Company, at St. James's Gate.

From the table above the title which heads this section of Dublin's history may seem paradoxical. To-day Dublin is certainly not an industrial city in the same sense that we apply the word to the great manufacturing cities of England and Scotland. Dublin is now rather a distributing centre—a commercial rather than an industrial city. It is the country's capital, and as such the seat of the professional and leisured interests. It is these classes that set the tone in Dublin, and just as they take things leisurely so does the city generally. Dublin is a sauntering, gossiping city, positively refusing to be hustled. She has certainly not gained the whole world, and it is questionable whether she has not also lost her own soul.

L.P.B.

Dublin: Municipal.

Dublin: Municipal.

THE city was completely controlled by the Guilds up to 1840, when, through the energies of O'Connell and his followers, the Municipal Reform Act was passed and Guild control abolished. But it was not till the passing of the Local Government Act in 1898 that complete popular local government was established.

The present Corporation of Dublin, although very severely handicapped by the heritage of debt and mismanagement left by its predecessors of the Reform period, and working with limited powers and a restricted revenue, has made extraordinary and successful endeavours to remedy the defects of former administrators and to utilise its powers for the general benefit and advantage of the citizens.

The city is divided into twenty wards, each of which returns one alderman and three councillors, so that the Corporation consists of eighty members. The Lord Mayor is elected annually from among the members of the Council. The office is one of great antiquity and civic dignity. He is the Chief Magistrate of the city, and takes precedence in all places within the borough. Among his special privileges he shares with the Lord Mayor of London the right to appear in person at the Bar of the House of Commons to present petitions to the House. During his occupancy of the civic chair the Lord Mayor resides in the Mansion House in Dawson Street, in the famous Round Room of which the Congress public meetings and receptions will be held. The present Lord Mayor is the Right Honourable Lorcan G. Sherlock, LL.D., who has held the office for the past three years, and who has worthily upheld the traditions of the office by his ability and dignity displayed in the performance of his important duties.

The executive work of the Corporation is ably carried on by its various committees and sub-committees, and by a fine staff of permanent officials. The responsibility for the control and administration of a great city like Dublin is no light one, and the efforts of the Corporation to advance the welfare of the citizens will be generally recognised as energetic and most successful.

.When the reformed Corporation took over the management of the city estate they found it deficient in most of the requirements

of a modern city, and its revenue diminished by years of mismanagement. Since that time much arduous work has been done to remedy these defects, and now the city has been brought to a state which gives citizens much to be proud of and thankful for. The streets have been well paved, and the system of cleaning has removed the cause which may once have justified the epithet of "dear, dirty Dublin." A magnificent water supply has been established, and when the extensions are complete the total capacity of the reservoirs will be 3,659,000,000 gallons.

The city is now excellently lighted, both gas and electricity being utilised. The Corporation some years ago took over the electricity



W Lawrence]

VIEW IN PHOENIX PARK.

[Photo., Dublin.

supply, and built an up-to-date generating station at the old Pigeon House Fort at the mouth of the Liffey. Electricity is gradually becoming the chief illuminant in the city, both for public and private purposes. The undertaking is proving a valuable asset to the city, and in course of time the profits will materially increase the civic revenue. The gas supply, although in private hands, is also excellent.

On the cleansing and drainage of the city depends very largely the health of the citizens, and the city Corporation, recognising this fact, has carried out a stupendous main drainage scheme at a cost of £500,000. Practically all the sewage of the city is carried to the outfall works at the mouth of the Liffey, and, after precipitation, the

residue is carried by steamer and deposited many miles out at sea. In the matter of housing, too, the Corporation has not been inactive. No less than twelve different housing schemes have been carried through by the Corporation; 1,385 separate dwellings (not necessarily self-contained) have been provided, affording accommodation to 7,500 persons. The total cost of these operations has been £354,216. Of course, this has barely touched the outer edges of the huge problem presented by the conditions of housing in the city, but, small as it is, it is as much as the financially-embarrassed City Council could undertake without a large extension of its powers or substantial State aid. Something has been done, however—old

*W. Lawrence]*

THE LIFFEY AT LUCAN.

[Photo., Dublin.

insanitary areas have been cleared, and modern sanitary dwellings erected in their stead; and the good work still goes on, as several other schemes are now being promoted by the Council.

In the matter of education, though it has not the extensive powers of English and Scottish educational authorities, the Corporation is no less energetic. Even before the passing of the Technical Education Act for Ireland the Dublin Corporation had some good work to its credit, and now its Technical and Commercial Schools provide cheap and efficient technical and commercial education, tending to increase the usefulness of the younger generation of Dubliners. A Municipal School of Music and a School

of Printing are also maintained. A fine new Technical Institute was erected a few years ago in Bolton Street, and several others are provided in other parts of the city. The Corporation also maintains many Public Libraries and a Municipal Gallery of Modern Art, temporarily housed in Harcourt Street. Under the Irish University Act the Corporation offers annually a number of valuable scholarships for students at a university, and also maintains lectureships in Municipal History and National Music in University College, Dublin.

It is here impossible to adequately refer to the many other activities of the Corporation, but it may be mentioned that the Fire Brigade is one of the most efficient in the three kingdoms; that fine Public Baths and Washhouses are available for the use of the citizens; that several extensive markets are maintained; and also a well-equipped public abattoir; that in the poorer districts the Corporation Parks and Playgrounds provide much-appreciated breathing-spaces for the people; and, lastly, that at present a large Park of 57 acres is being constructed and laid out at Fairview, where an insanitary and unsightly slobland formerly existed.

It will be obvious, therefore, that, in spite of the many unnecessary and uncalled-for attacks made upon it, the Dublin Corporation is a body which the citizens have ample reason to thank for its vigorous work on their behalf, and that many cities of much greater wealth and larger population than Dublin must take a backward place when compared with Dublin in the matter of a record of municipal work well and truly accomplished.

L.P.B.

**Irish Co-operative Conference
Association**

Irish Co-operative Conference Association.

Society has great reason to rejoice when a class, of which the influence is moral and intellectual, rises to ascendancy.—*Macaulay.*

THE Congress Handbook usually contains a reference to the Conference Association of the district in which Congress is held. The present Congress is unique in many respects, but in nothing so much as in the fact that the district with which it is proposed to deal in the following pages includes the whole of Ireland. This, to those who do not know the facts, might seem a large order, but, alas! it is to be regretted that although the Irish Societies forming part of the Irish Co-operative Conference Association are thoroughly representative of the whole country from Ballymena in the north to Cork in the south, there is scarcely a county in Great Britain but can point to a greater development of Co-operative distributive enterprise than in the whole of Ireland. Doubtless in time to come Ireland will have its separate Conference Districts, either purely distributive, or, as seems more likely, distributive and agricultural combined; but for the present the I.C.C.A. has as its special work the whole of the distributive interests in Ireland under its charge.

This might not have been the case if the old Irish Section of the Co-operative Union, which was formed in the early part of the 'nineties, had not lapsed after a short but brilliant career. In the "Story of the C.W.S." we are told that "in 1894 no less than thirty-three Co-operative Dairy Societies and thirteen Retail Stores had been formed under the fostering care of the new Section." The Irish Section, however, under circumstances which are now familiar, was dissolved at the Woolwich Congress of 1896, and Ireland's propagandist interests were then vested in the Scottish Section.

What was known as the North of Ireland Co-operative Conference Association was formed at a meeting of representatives of the Londonderry, Lisburn, Portadown, and Belfast Societies held in the St. George's Café, Belfast, on Saturday, December 19th, 1896. Mr. S. J. Pink (Belfast) presided at this meeting, and Mr. James Deans (Secretary of the Scottish Section) was present also. Mr. Deans, in the course of an address at the meeting, mentioned the

fact that the first Irish Section had not, in the opinion of the Co-operative Union, fulfilled the purposes for which it was created, and it had been dissolved at the last Congress, and Ireland had been added to the Scottish Section. The Conference Association which had just been formed, continued Mr. Deans, would be entitled to send one representative to the Scottish Section. The Scottish Section had agreed that an Irish Association should be formed, and that Ireland should have one representative on the Scottish Sectional Board. At the conclusion of the meeting it was resolved "That in the opinion of the delegates present it is desirable that the Co-operative Societies in the North of Ireland be formed into a Conference District, and affiliated with the Scottish Section." The representatives to the Scottish Sectional Board were Messrs. P. J. Hannon and J. A. Mc.Cay.

At the second meeting of this newly-formed Association, held in Lisburn, a constitution was drawn up, which, with a few alterations, remains the constitution of its successor, the Irish Co-operative Conference Association.

The President of the first Association was Mr. John Straiton, who continued in office about two years. Mr. R. Fleming succeeded Mr. Straiton as President in 1898, and held the office until 1912, when he was appointed Organiser for Ireland by the Co-operative Union. Mr. John Palmer succeeded Mr. Fleming as President in 1912, and still holds the office. The first Treasurer of the Association was Mr. T. L. Boyd (Lisburn). The late Mr. A. C. Husband (Belfast) was appointed the first Secretary, followed by Mr. Richardson (Belfast) in 1900, and Mr. Knox (Belfast) in 1908, and Mr. Fleming in 1912.

The Editors of the Irish "Wheatsheaf" promoted by the Association were Messrs. John Straiton, J. A. Mc.Cay, H. Richardson, W. M. Knox, and W.G. Kane, the latter of whom now holds this office.

At this second meeting a resolution was passed instructing the Secretary to request the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society to furnish a list of Agricultural Societies and Co-operative Creameries with a view to their affiliation. This shows that at an early period of the Association's history the members of the new body were anxious to combine with their fellow agricultural Co-operators for the advancement of the cause in Ireland.

About three years after this the Association had its name changed to the present one, viz., the Irish Co-operative Conference Association,

and it was also decided to allow any Society which had an Educational Committee to send one delegate from such Committee to the Conference meetings.

In 1903, after full consultation between the late Mr. J. C. Gray and the I.C.C.A. Committee, it was decided to suggest a revision of the rules of the Union whereby Ireland could be detached from the Scottish Section, and the Committee of the Association given the full powers of a Sectional Board, with the exception that it should not be represented on the United Board. Mr. Gray also suggested that a full-time propagandist agent should be employed for Ireland, but his death some time afterwards interfered with the carrying out of this project, and the Committee decided against it, as they thought the time was not ripe for such a course. These changes were submitted and approved of by the Doncaster Congress of 1903, and the first representatives on the Central Board for Ireland were Messrs. Fleming and Mc.Cay, both of whom attended the Stratford Congress of 1904. After these alterations in rule had been approved by Congress, the I.C.C.A. constitution was revised, whereby it was provided that the Irish Executive should administer the affairs of the Irish Co-operative Conference Association.

About five years ago, in order to more effectively carry on the work of the I.C.C.A., an arrangement was made whereby Conferences were held in both North and South of Ireland during the spring and autumn, with a Joint Annual Conference in the summer.

With a view to still further improve the efficiency of the work of the Executive and to improve its status, proposals are being submitted to Congress in order that the Executive may have direct representation on the United Board. The United Board have approved of the suggested changes, and have placed them on the Congress agenda.

As the distance between the various Irish Societies is, in some cases, very great, and Societies too poor to pay travelling expenses of delegates, in order to equalise matters it was decided that each Society should pay twopence per member annually to the I.C.C.A. funds, and it is from these funds that the travelling expenses of delegates are defrayed.

The S.C.W.S. and the U.C.B.S. have been generous supporters of the I.C.C.A. for many years. In 1901 the S.C.W.S. gave the Association a grant of £100, and for years previous to that they gave an annual grant of £5 to the funds. This annual grant, of

course, stopped when the rules were changed at the Doncaster Congress. The U.C.B.S. have given an annual subscription to the funds of the I.C.C.A. for many years.

This little historical sketch will give Congress delegates some idea of the forces at work for the promotion of Co-operation in Ireland, and the various changes that have taken place since the lapse of the first Irish Section. At present there is a most energetic Executive at work, and a splendid organising agent (Mr. Fleming), and it seems only reasonable to conclude that in the space of a few years there will hardly be an important urban centre in Ireland without its Co-operative Society, or at least an agitation going on with that desirable end in view.

The Association now consists of the following sixteen Societies: Armagh, Ballymena, Belfast, Coalisland, Cork, Drumaness, Enniskillen, Dublin Industrial, Larne, Lisburn, Lucan, Middletown, Newtownards, Portadown, Queenstown, and Rosslare Harbour. The following organisations are also affiliated with it: U.C.B.S., P.C.M.S., Belfast and District A.U.C.E., I.A.W.S., I.A.O.S., I.C.W.G., and Employees' Bonus Investment Society (U.C.B.S.).

The membership, trade, and profits realised of the Societies affiliated with the I.C.C.A. for the year 1913 were as follows :—

No. of Societies.	Sales.	Net Profits.
16.	£476,426.	£43,137.

The total number of Co-operative Distributive Societies in Ireland is twenty-eight, twenty-one of whom contributed to the Co-operative Union last year.

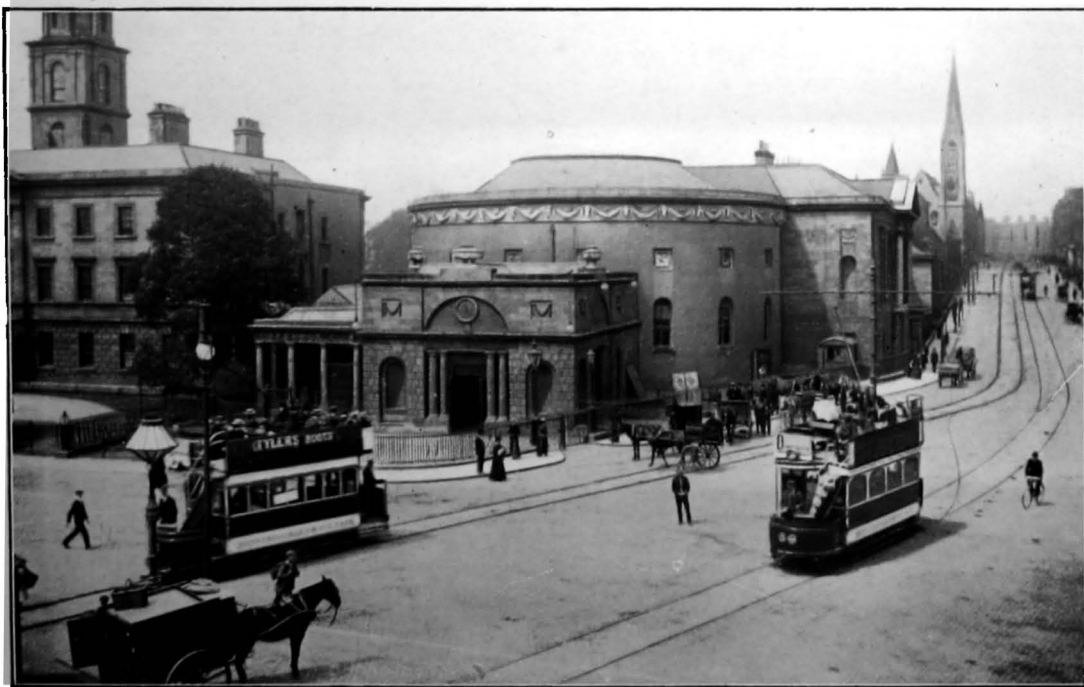
The statistics relating to these Societies, for the year 1913, are as follows :—

No. of Societies.	Sales.	Net Profits.
28.	£505,901.	£44,999.

Outside of the Societies affiliated with the I.C.C.A., therefore, the Co-operative distributive trade in Ireland is comparatively unimportant.

W. G. K.

Co-operation in Ireland.



W. Lawrence]

**THE ROUND ROOM (ROTUNDA),
Where Robert Owen Lectured In 1823.**

[Photo., Dublin.

Co-operation in Ireland.

Erin, O Erin! thy winter is past,
And the hope that lived through it shall blossom at last.

Moore.

EARLY HISTORY.

THE materials for a History of Co-operation in Ireland during the greater part of the nineteenth century are so scattered and fragmentary that little more can be done in a short sketch than to summarise the few facts which are known. These may serve as a useful starting point to some future historian, who, with time, patience, and powers of research may add to them and gather the details into a story which will be as interesting in its way as a novel, and will not be without its suggestion of tragedy in its common note of repeated failure down till a generation ago.

Perhaps one of the very earliest references occurs in "The Belfast Monthly Magazine," vol. 4, No. 20, March 31st, 1810, as follows:—

An institution entitled the "Mechanics' Association" has existed for many years back in all the principal manufacturing towns in Scotland.

1. A voluntary subscription of any sum the subscribers may think proper is funded.

2. A Commissioner is appointed to purchase groceries and sundry other articles for the use of the association, and to sell them at first cost, for which trouble he is to have a competency, say 5 per cent.

3. The profits arising from the sales at market price to others—non-subscribers—are to be added to the fund for the use of the association.

Perhaps the above institution deserves to be warmly recommended to mechanics in all the principal manufacturing towns in Ireland. If carried into effect, it evidently would guard against the baneful effects of monopoly. The poor mechanic who might occasionally want cash would be taken less advantage of; and that infernal business of *pawnbroking* would likely commit less ravages on the lower orders of the people.

The editor comments on this as follows:—

The foregoing plan was some time ago forwarded anonymously to a person in Lisburn. The scheme appears to be useful, but it requires further explanation. If the writer or any other person conversant with the practices of Scotland would give a more full account it would be acceptable. Information is particularly solicited whether selling on trust to the members forms part of the plan; whether credit is given generally to their members, or only to the amount of the individual's subscription.

In view of the attitude taken to-day by many people opposed to the Co-operative movement there are many obviously interesting

points in this early communication. It would also be very interesting to know if anything came of the suggestion.

Robert Owen's first visit to Ireland was in 1822, his fame as a social reformer having preceded him, and he received an enthusiastic reception in Dublin. He afterwards toured through Ireland, visiting Belfast, Down, King's and Queen's Counties, Meath, Clare, Tipperary, Limerick, Kerry, Kilkenny, Cork, and Waterford. He spoke freely of the conditions of the people, and his opinions and advice were asked in after years both by politicians and officials in regard to Irish social problems.

In addition to the Hibernian Philanthropic Society formed in 1823, and the Dublin Co-operative Society founded in 1826, under the most distinguished patronage of the day, but both of which proved abortive, William Thompson, of Cork, the author of *The Distribution of Wealth*, and one of the ablest exponents of the new school of economics, drew up an elaborate scheme for a community to be established within fifteen miles of Cork City, which should consist of 2,000 persons, adults to subscribe £5 each, and children £2. 10s. each of capital. Apparently this plan never got beyond the paper it was written on.

The year 1830 saw the greatest Co-operative activity in Ireland as a result of Robert Owen's propaganda. It was in this year that the famous Ralahine community in County Clare was started. A landlord, Mr. John Scott Vandeleur, inspired by Robert Owen, devoted his estate of 618 acres to the uses of a colony founded on the new principles. The tenantry on this estate were miserably poor, discontented, and disorderly. A steward in charge of the estate had been shot. The land was handed over to the tenantry on certain conditions, that they elected a committee to take charge of the necessary work, apportion, and supervise it. It was evident that a revolution was effected by the change, for the disorderly and discontented tenants worked willingly and cheerfully under the new system, and for over three years the success of the community was astonishing. Mr. Craig's story of Ralahine is a marvellous book, and has induced many enthusiasts to try similar experiments in community life in many countries and at many times since, but invariably without success, and, indeed, in many instances, with deplorable results. The Ralahine scheme unfortunately came to an untimely end by the bankruptcy of Mr. Vandeleur through gambling.

A Society must have existed in Belfast about the same time, because a monthly paper, "The Belfast Co-operator," was published during 1830. An attempt to found a community in the hills between Ballymena and Cushendall in County Antrim shortly afterwards failed through the attraction of "all the lazy rogues and vagabonds in the province to it." In June of 1830 James Burns, writing to Robert Owen from Armagh, announces the formation of the first Armagh Co-operative Society, and hails Owen as the great teacher of mankind: "The supreme merit is yours of devising a plan at once effectual, simple, and stupendous, of rendering the natural selfishness of each the instrument of happiness to all." In February 1831 J. Emerson writes also to Owen to give an account of the spread of Co-operation in Ulster, and says: "Best of all there is a growing affection and brotherly love amongst our members, which is manifested more and more every day, so that the happy moment, the wished for object—community of property and interest—may not be so far distant as some would lead us to imagine." All this effort, however, seems to have suffered the same eclipse as befell the most of the Owenite Societies in England and Scotland prior to the new impetus given by the formation of the Rochdale Society in the "hungry 'forties."

The fame of Rochdale apparently did not reach Ireland for many years, or if it did it had little effect in promoting anything beyond inquiry. There was a Society called the Laganvillage Co-operative Society in Belfast, according to the Belfast Directory for the year 1854, and down to the 'seventies many Societies were formed where there was a small community of mill or factory workers. Most of these had either disappeared altogether or had been taken over by the proprietors of the adjoining works. Until the Truck Act came into force the mill store made no bad debts, because the payment for the goods sold during the week or fortnight was deducted from the wages paid to the debtor. A member of the Belfast Society remembers a store at the Bank Buildings end of Hercules Street, where the present Reform Club stands now in Royal Avenue. There are records of many liquidations in the 'seventies of Societies in Dublin, Lurgan, Cookstown, and elsewhere. Most, if not all, of these failures were due to mismanagement and inexperience in Co-operation, with the lack of mutual help and the want of any proper sense of loyalty in the membership. A bitter legacy of hostility to the idea of Co-operation was the inevitable result which has lingered tenaciously down to our own time, and has tended to make the task of propaganda in Ireland very difficult.



W. Lawrence]

[Photo., Dublin.

**THIS BUILDING WAS THE HOME OF A CO-OPERATIVE COMMUNITY
ABOUT 1820 (page 144).**

The annual returns of the Registrar of Friendly and Industrial Societies from 1872 to 1890 show variations in the number of Irish Societies making returns as low as six in 1878 and 1879, and as many as twenty-four in 1890. It must be remembered, however, that returns were not made with any distinct regard for regularity in those days.

This brings the little that is known of the earlier history of Co-operation in Ireland down to a generation ago, when the tide of failure slowly ebbed, and the story of success, self-reliance, and mutual help commences; the greatest testimony it has ever had to the good work done by the Co-operative Union, and which is being suitably crowned in this year of grace, 1914, by the first meeting of a Co-operative Congress on Irish soil.

W.M.K.

CO-OPERATION IN DUBLIN.

To the most casual Co-operative observer the disappointing fact becomes quickly apparent that the movement has not made anything like the same progress in Dublin as it has in other towns of a similar size "across the water."

This is all the more remarkable when we consider that the principles of Co-operation were firmly established and successfully practised in Dublin more than a hundred years ago. Long before the birth of what is now known as the "Rochdale movement" the weavers of Dublin, with that astuteness for which their class has always been famous, had successfully "harnessed the economy of Co-operation," and demonstrated the power and efficiency of combination.

The first Society of which we have any authentic records was established about the beginning of the last century in a quarter of the city on the south bank of the river known as the "Liberties." This Society, unlike the ordinary Co-operative Society of to-day, did not confine its attention exclusively to the function of supplying its members with their ordinary domestic requirements. A part of the funds was used for the purpose of providing the raw material to the members (most of whom were weavers) to enable them to carry on their industry. This material was bought in the open market on wholesale terms and distributed to the members, who were by this arrangement placed on a position of equality with the owners of the large weaving concerns. The finished goods were then taken over by the Society and disposed of to the best advantage, thus enabling

this humble combination of weavers successfully to compete with the larger manufacturers engaged in the same industry throughout the country. There was no room for the gombeen man in the Liberties.

Another remarkable instance of Co-operative sagacity manifested in the operations of this Society was their adaptation of the Co-operative idea to the ordinary business of housekeeping. Co-operative housekeeping is generally supposed to be quite a recent development of the principles of our system, but a reference to the records of that time will show that it is not by any means the modern institution which a great many people think it is. As a matter of fact this enterprising community had its well-appointed kitchen equipped with all the necessary culinary utensils, and its common wash-house and bleaching green conveniently situated and designed to reduce the ordinary domestic drudgery to a minimum. In short, there does not seem to be any sphere of modern Co-operative activity which this Society did not anticipate.

Repressive legislation, however, in the form of various Acts of Parliament, specially designed to hamper and penalise the Dublin weaving industry in the interests of the British manufacturers, ultimately succeeded in destroying it altogether, and with the destruction of this great industry also disappeared for the time being all trace of Co-operative enterprise in the Liberties of Dublin. Is it unreasonable to suggest that the movement set on foot by the Rochdale weavers in 1844 was simply an adaptation of that founded by the Dublin weavers forty years previously? Who knows? "There is no new thing under the sun," says the preacher.

In any case, in apportioning the credit for the conception and development of the Co-operative idea, due regard should be given to the fact that there were "Dublin pioneers" before there were "Rochdale pioneers," and that it is not the first time that Irish ideas have been exploited and passed off on the unwary as original.

The extinction of the cotton industry of Dublin was complete in 1823, and in that year Robert Owen came to Dublin, and immediately set on foot a vigorous propagandist movement in the city. He delivered a series of lectures in the Rotunda, and later on we find that Mr. Craig, one of Mr. Owen's most ardent and enthusiastic disciples, a man who had learned the principle from the "master" himself, was brought over to Ireland for the purpose of disseminating the principles of what was at that time known as the "New Gospel," and in giving practical assistance in their establishment.



CENTRAL PREMISES, 17, TURLOUGH TERRACE, FAIRVIEW.



DRUMCONDRA ROAD BRANCH.

Notwithstanding all these advantages, the "new movement," unfortunately, did not catch on, and Owen was reluctantly compelled to admit that his effort to establish Co-operation in Dublin was a failure.

Owen, however, with his inordinate capacity for work and unshakable belief in his system, did not confine his attention to Dublin, but the story of his temporary success and ultimate failure in County Clare in 1830 does not come within the scope of the writer's duty in this brief sketch.

In 1826, a year which seems to have been singularly prolific in Co-operative enterprises, a Society was formed in Dawson Street on the lines laid down by Owen in his lectures in the Rotunda a year or two previously, but although its promoters were men of considerable influence the venture met with but slight encouragement. It, however, lingered on for a few years, but ultimately died of apathy and neglect, and while it cannot be said that the "spirit of association" had been entirely stifled in Dublin it lacked that cohesion and vitality which would have enabled it to make its influence felt. Meanwhile, the Co-operative idea had been spreading rapidly "across the water," but it was not till the late 'fifties that any attempt was made to organise Co-operative opinion in Dublin again.

The Inchicore Society was started in the year 1859, when the Rochdale movement had already become finally established, and was continuing to make rapid headway in Scotland and in England.

Whether the rise of this Society was due to the influence of the Rochdale movement, or was simply a revival of the earlier or communal type of Co-operation established in the city sixty years previously, is a moot point which need not trouble the speculative inquirer. What will be more interesting is the fact that the Society has a continued existence of nearly fifty-five years, and therefore enjoys the enviable distinction of being not only the oldest Society in Ireland, but one of the three oldest in the United Kingdom. This is, unfortunately, however, the most that can be said in its favour. The Society had its origin in the G. S. and W. Railway Works, and its members were drawn exclusively from the same source. The policy of exclusiveness which characterised its operations at the commencement has been continued down to the present time, with the result that to-day its total membership is actually less than it was fifty years ago. This is a condition of things which is not creditable either to management or members. There is no reason why it should continue. There is every reason why it should cease. The

circumstances of the Society are more than usually favourable. The premises they occupy are their own property, and, therefore, that first charge, rent, which is such a serious factor in the financial affairs of many small Societies, is no embarrassment to them.

Their shops—Butchery and Grocery—are commodious, well equipped, and capable of dealing with a turnover many times in excess of what they are doing at the present time. Their premises are situated in a rising district, and there are upwards of 3,000 hands employed in the Railway Works, most of whom live in close proximity to the Stores. The expense of distribution is, therefore, reduced to a minimum. Notwithstanding all these advantages, the Inchicore Society is living in the backwaters, so to speak, and, unfortunately, both committee and members seem content to remain there.

That Dublin has never been enthusiastically Co-operative cannot be gainsaid, but to say that it has at any time been entirely impervious to the Co-operative idea would be untrue. This will be readily admitted when we consider the number of Societies which were started in the city since the formation of the Inchicore Society in 1859. Of course, none of these Societies are in existence at the present time, and we can only conjecture as to the reason for their failure.

A notable instance of an abortive effort is that of the Brunswick Street Society, founded in 1879. It had a short and stormy career, ending in the Bankruptcy Court, where disclosures of a very questionable character were made regarding the management of the Society.

The Rathmines Society was started about ten years ago under very favourable auspices. It adopted at the beginning the Model Rules of the Co-operative Union, and these for a time were administered with care and ability. It carried on business for a few years, during which time it achieved considerable success on the south side of the city. Apathy, however, crept into the Society, affecting both members and committee, with the result that this latest venture falls to be added to the long list of Co-operative failures in Dublin.

The Industrial Co-operative Society (Dublin) Limited was registered on August 30th, 1905. Three years previously the Dublin Dockyard Co. commenced the business of shipbuilding at the North Wall, and in the revival of this ancient Dublin industry large numbers of skilled artisans found their way into the city from the

various shipbuilding centres on the other side. Most of these workmen were Co-operators to begin with, and quite a number of them were experienced Committee-men.

It was therefore comparatively easy to gather together a sufficient number with the necessary enthusiasm and the requisite knowledge to lay the foundation of a successful Society. All the preliminary meetings in connection with the formation of the Society were held on the premises of the Dublin Dockyard Co., and the employers, to show their practical sympathy with the movement, were the first to apply for shares. It is gratifying to note that they have never ceased to take a warm interest in the welfare of the Society. Under these circumstances the launching of the Society was, comparatively speaking, an easy matter.

Before, however, actually beginning business, the Provisional Committee, on the recommendation of the Irish Conference Association, approached the Managers of the Rathmines Society (which had been founded some two years previously) with a view to an amalgamation of the forces operating on the south side with those which had just been called into being on the north side of the city. Round-table conferences, however, can only succeed when those taking part in them are imbued with the genuine spirit of compromise. Otherwise they must inevitably fail. The failure in this case may have been due to the fact that the promoters of the Industrial Society had an exaggerated belief in themselves, or it may have been the result of that feeling of contempt which an established institution sometimes manifests towards one in the making. In any case, and from whatever cause, the conference unfortunately proved abortive, and the Dublin Industrial launched out on its own.

Business was commenced in the shop, 3, Merville Avenue, in the latter part of 1905, and the first balance sheet showed a small but clear profit sufficient for the payment of a dividend of elevenpence in the £ on purchases.

The members regarded this humble result as a happy augury for the future, but there were those, unfortunately, on the outside who looked with suspicion on the venture, and prophesied the ultimate failure of the Society. These gloomy predictions may have succeeded to some extent in deterring a few timid people from coming in who otherwise might have been induced to join. They failed entirely to shake the confidence of the members, all of whom remained loyal to their principles and to their Store, and so they pursued the even tenor of their way, gradually adding to their number as time went on.

Meantime, the movement had been spreading to the north-west quarter of the city, and in October, 1909, a Branch was opened in Dorset Street for the convenience of members resident in the Drumcondra district.

A considerable number of new members joined this Branch immediately after it was opened, and the necessity for more commodious premises soon became apparent. A Special Committee was, therefore, appointed to look out for a more suitable shop, but this was a task of more difficulty than was at first anticipated, and it was only in last September that the present premises, 32, Drumcondra Road, were secured. The change has been amply justified. The business of this Branch is advancing steadily, and there is every prospect of increased activity in the district in the near future.

All this time the Society had been drawing its bread supplies from the U.C.B.S. Bakery in Belfast, but it soon became evident that this arrangement could not continue indefinitely, as the heavy charges for carriage involved the Baking Society in financial loss, and as the Dublin bakers refused to supply the Society except on terms which were impossible of acceptance the Committee was compelled to take up the question of building a Bakery.

An appeal to the members for the necessary capital met with a ready response, and the work was put in hand forthwith. Suitable ground was secured in Church Road, and arrangements were concluded with Messrs. Pemberton and Co., of Dublin, for the erection of the buildings, and with Messrs. Melvin, of Glasgow, for the building of the ovens and the fitting up of the necessary machinery. In this work the Committee were deeply indebted to the Management of the U.C.B.S. for their invaluable counsel and advice in the working out of the technical details in connection with the building and equipment of the Bakery. The services of their experts were freely placed at the disposal of the Committee. Needless to say, these were thankfully appreciated and largely availed of.

Meantime, negotiations had been entered into with the Dublin Corporation for a supply of electricity for the lighting of the Bakery, and also for the necessary power to operate the machinery. Unfortunately, however, these negotiations were not successful, and the Committee had to fall back on the Gas Company for light and power. So convinced, however, are the Committee of the great advantage of an electrical supply that they have again raised the question, and they have good reason to hope that the Corporation



THOMAS STREET BRANCH (ST. PATRICK'S).



CHURCH ROAD BRANCH AND BAKERY.

may yet be induced to extend their main so as to embrace the district in which the Bakery is situated.

As an indication of the celerity and despatch with which the building of the Bakery was carried through, it may be mentioned that the opening ceremony took place within six months of the time at which the appeal was made to the members for capital. The building scheme also included a Grocery Branch for the convenience of the members residing in the Church Road district, and Bakery and Branch were opened simultaneously in September, 1910.

Some idea of the capacity of the Bakery may be found when it is stated that the output during the recent labour troubles in Dublin amounted to over 225 sacks per week.

Towards the end of 1910 the Committee were faced with the problem of providing additional accommodation to cope with the increase of trade at Fairview, the business at that time having developed beyond the capacity of the shop. Some difficulty was experienced in obtaining suitable premises with the adequate shop and warehousing accommodation for present needs, and which would at the same time provide for the expansion which was anticipated. Ultimately, however, premises fulfilling the necessary requirements were secured at 17, Turlough Terrace, Fairview, to which the business in Merville Avenue was transferred in November, 1911.

Up till the beginning of last year the Society had confined its operations almost exclusively to the north side of the city, but about that time a movement was set on foot by a few enthusiasts in the St. Patrick's division to form a Society in that district. This movement was entirely spontaneous. It had not been stirred into activity by any propagandism from the outside. It originated amongst a class of people none of whom had ever been connected with any Co-operative Society before. Little credit is therefore due to the Industrial Society for this latest development of Co-operation on the south side. All that the Society did was simply to come along at the psychological moment and exploit the enthusiasm which had already been generated in the district.

A public meeting was held in the premises of the Irish Wholesale Society, kindly granted by the Directors, at which a resolution was unanimously adopted pledging all those concerned to join the Industrial Society. This resolution was promptly effected, and suitable premises were secured at 132, Thomas Street. Business was commenced last July, and the turnover at this Branch has now reached an average of about £100 per week.

The Society completed its thirty-third quarter on January 26th last, and it is gratifying to note that the financial position disclosed in the balance sheet for the period in question is eminently satisfactory. That quarter was by far the most successful in the history of the Society, enabling the Committee to declare a dividend of rs. 3d. in the £, to bring the reserve fund up to within 42 per cent of the share capital, to write down the book values of the property and plant of the Society by nearly 40 per cent, and to set aside the sum of £100 for propaganda work in the city.

In this latter connection it will be of interest to know that Co-operation is attracting attention to-day in Dublin in a way and to an extent that it has never done before. It is bringing men together who differ fundamentally in religion and politics. In the Club, the Guild, and the trade union—in fact, wherever groups of men are to be found associated together in some common bond of interest, there Co-operation is being discussed. The seed sown in the long ago has been slow to germinate. That the plant may be all the more vigorous on that account will be the earnest prayer of all those who are working for the day when Dublin Co-operators will enter into their kingdom.

DUBLIN UNIVERSITY CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY LIMITED.

Trinity College is the first University in the British Isles to establish a Co-operative Society within its walls.

This interesting fact would have passed unnoticed (except by those directly concerned) but for the mistaken zeal of certain estimable people who call themselves the "Legitimate Trade."

These gentlemen, with a reckless disregard for their own interests, began to write letters to the press on the evils of Co-operation in general, and the wickedness of the University Co-operative Society in particular.

An enormous amount of public attention was, therefore, focussed not only on the new departure in the College, but on the larger question of the "Economics" of Co-operation.

The net result of it all was that thousands of people became interested, a general desire for more information was created, and this crusade ended like many another of a similar kind. It defeated the object of its promoters, and gave a free advertisement to the theories of those whom the crusaders erroneously look upon as enemies.

The Society is registered under the Industrial and Provident Societies Act, and it commenced business last October. The first balance sheet was issued in January covering a trading period of two months, and it discloses a very satisfactory state of affairs.

It is almost certain that the example of Trinity will be followed by other Universities in Scotland and in England at no distant date.

T.L.



Mr W. J. Bryan. Prof. I. B. Rudmose-Browne. Dr Traill. Prof. Bastable. Mr. J. W. Biggar.

GROUP TAKEN AT OPENING OF DUBLIN UNIVERSITY CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY, OCTOBER, 1913.

BELFAST CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY LIMITED.

The Co-operative movement in and around Belfast has had a very chequered history. Its early record is one of strenuous struggle and frequent failure. It is only within comparatively recent years that Co-operation has come to its own in the industrial city of the North. During the past decade its growth has been quite phenomenal in its rapidity, till now Belfast has a Society in some degree commensurate with its big industrial community.

In the earliest days of the movement there are traces of Societies in York Street, in the Lagan Village, and at Whiteabbey. In the year 1889 there were four local Societies—the Belfast, the Ligoniel, the National, and the Ballymacarrett. The latter three only lived for a few years.

Belfast Society commenced business in a small shop at 128, Shankhill Road, in May, 1889. The first meeting of members was held in Agnes Street Schoolroom, and at the close of this meeting there was a subscribing membership of 199, and share capital to the extent of £200 had been paid in or promised. Some members of the first Committee appointed, it is interesting to note, are still in the Society.



A. R. Hogg

PRESENT CENTRAL PREMISES, 20-30, YORK STREET, BELFAST.

[Photo., Belfast.]

They had evidently their own troubles, for an early minute resolves:

That we conduct our Committee business in a more parliamentary way than hitherto, and that the Chairman be instructed to keep decorum.

The development of the business on the Shankhill Road soon got beyond the available capacity of the shop, and ground was secured in Agnes Street, a short distance away. Here, in 1894, a three-storey building was erected, with accommodation for grocery shop on the ground floor, drapery and Committee-room on the first floor, and a small hall on the top, with storage room and space for future developments at the rear. This property cost £650, and was the first owned by the Society. The membership at the end of the year 1894 had grown to 445, the share capital was £1,043, the trade of the year £7,156, and the profit £539, or over 50 per cent on the capital. In the succeeding year there was a fairly steady growth, but after 1895 a falling off took place, and for some time the progress was very slow. To the Committees of these years must be accorded the merit of often hoping against hope and of struggling bravely against circumstances which would have daunted men not inspired by the enthusiasm of a great cause, and filled with a determination that would not admit defeat. This spirit, along with the loyalty of a number of the members, brought the Society through its dark days, and finally placed it on the highway to its subsequent success. The increase of the membership on the Ballymacarrett side of the city led to the opening of the first Grocery Branch in June, 1898, on Albertbridge Road, transferred a year later to 136, Templemore Avenue, its present position. This was followed by a second Branch started at Connswater in 1899, removed in 1901 to 62, Upper Newtownards Road, in 1902 to Ravenscroft Avenue, and in 1908 to 280, Newtownards Road, where it is at present.

At the end of 1902 the membership was 1,168, the share capital £2,656, the trade of the year £21,234, and the profits £1,663. About this time commenced the awakening of the Society. Dividends went up as high as 1s. 9d.; quarterly meetings of members commenced to be well attended, and a keen interest was taken in the working of the Society. The change this betokened may be better understood when it is explained that previously a quorum was obtained with difficulty, and it is told that one member of the Committee had actually gone to bed on the night of a meeting when a deputation waited on him and asked him to come and make out a quorum, a request to which, it appears, he gallantly responded. An

Educational Committee had been appointed in the year 1901, and a grant of 2½ per cent of the net profit has been made quarterly ever since. This has been expended in providing literature, music,

recreation, lectures, and education in Co-operation for the members and employees, and has had a marked influence on the spread of Co-operative ideals in Belfast and the immediate neighbourhood.

In April, 1903, the third Grocery Branch was opened at 257, York Street, and in the following October the premises at 283, Ormeau Road were purchased at a cost of £950, forming the second property acquired by the Society. A com-



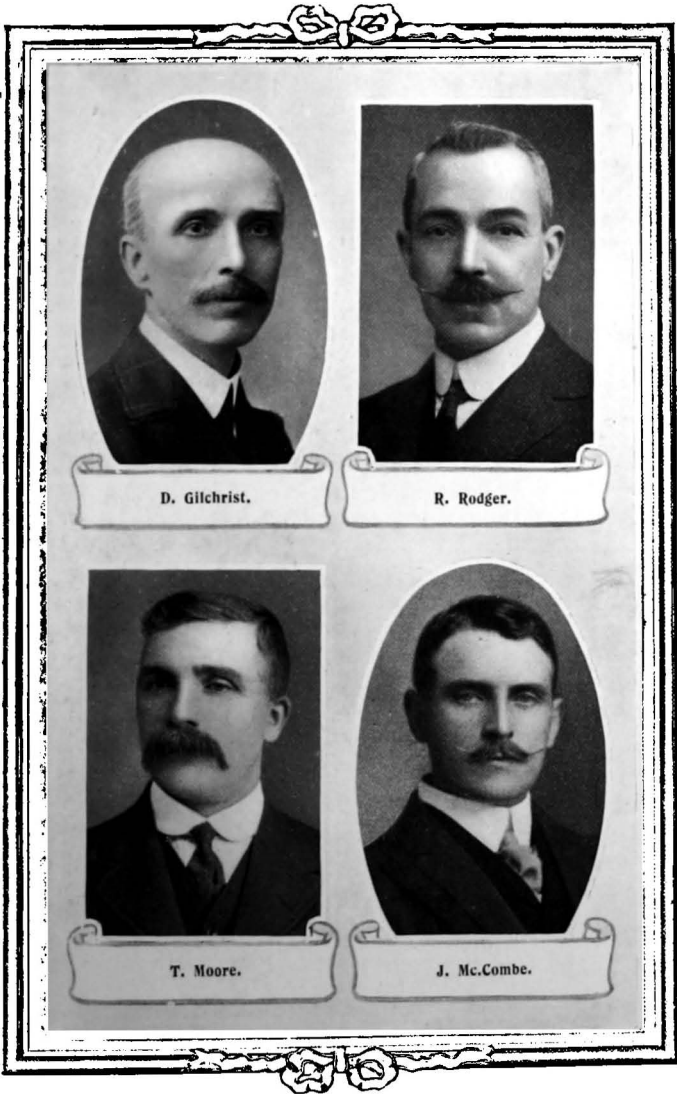
DONEGALL ROAD BRANCH.

modious Grocery Branch was established here, and the upper portion of the building served the Society as a wholesale warehouse till 1913. It was also decided to extend the Agnes Street premises, where the business was getting congested for the lack of room.

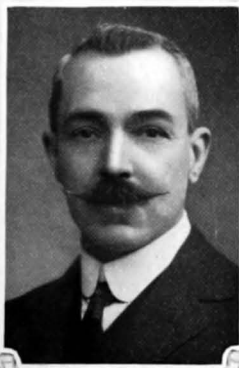
In the spring of 1903 the master bakers of Belfast notified the Committee of the Society of a reduction of rate of discount on bread sales to members. This action proved to be a turning point in the career of the Society. The Committee ceased negotiations with the local bakers, and appealed to the United Co-operative Baking Society, which federation at once made arrangements for the supply of bread temporarily from Glasgow. Almost immediately, too, preliminary arrangements were started



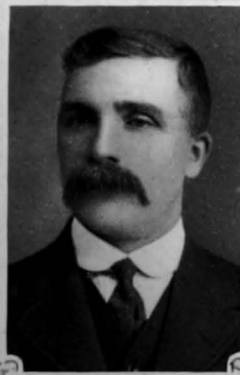
DONEGALL ROAD BOOT SHOP.



D. Gilchrist.



R. Rodger.



T. Moore.



J. Mc.Combe.

CHAIRMEN OF SUB-COMMITTEES OF BELFAST MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE.



AGNES STREET BRANCH.



TEMPLEMORE AVENUE BRANCH.



NEWTOWNARDS ROAD BRANCH.



BROUGHAM STREET BRANCH.

A. R. Hogg]

[Photo., Belfast.

for the establishment of a Branch Bakery in Belfast to supply the wants of the Societies in the North of Ireland. Ground was taken at Ravenhill Avenue, and, pending the erection of the permanent building, a "tin" structure was put up, so that the supply of bread commenced on May 30th. The excellence of the bread did much to help forward the success of the Bakery, whilst it also proved a splendid propagandist agent for the other departments of the Society.

In 1904 the extensions at Agnes Street were opened, with increased facilities for the Grocery and Drapery Departments, accountant's office, Committee-rooms, and hall.

The Educational Committee conducted a series of propagandist meetings in various parts of the city, and in November the Co-operative Wholesale Society held an exhibition of Co-operative products in the Wellington Hall, which attracted a very large number of visitors, and did much to popularise the idea of Co-operation.

In November, 1905, the Branch at 191, Springfield Road was opened; a year later the property was bought at a cost of £450, to allow of extensions to the shop. No. 429, Woodstock Road was bought in 1906 at a cost of £420, and opened as a Grocery Branch, afterwards being enlarged to meet the increase in trade. A Grocery Branch was opened in the same year at 160, Antrim Road, and afterwards removed to more extensive premises at No. 150, and later to No. 148.

Easter of 1906 is an historical point in the story of Belfast Society. The Bakery at Ravenhill Avenue had been in process of erection for about two years, and was formally opened on Easter Monday. The Directors of the Baking Society, accompanied by about 300 delegates from Scottish Societies (members of the Federation), came on a visit in a specially chartered steamer, from Saturday to Monday, and on the Monday the Bakery was formally declared open by the Chairman of the U.C.B.S. in the presence of the representatives of the Scottish and Irish Societies. The progress of the Society since that day has more than justified the high hopes then entertained of its success.

In October, 1906, the Drapery business, carried on in a small way in Agnes Street and Templemore Avenue, was concentrated in Central Premises at Nos. 166, 168, 172, and 174, North Street. General Drapery, Millinery, Outfitting, and Boot Departments were opened. The step at the time was thought a bold one on the part of the Committee, but its success has justified their action.

During 1908 a Grocery Branch at 165, Lisburn Road was opened, and the business was subsequently removed to No. 191, where the Society acquired premises of its own. In March, 1908, the three

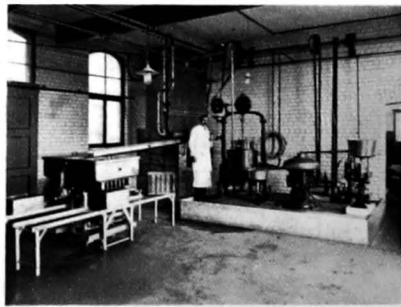


MOUNTPOTTINGER ROAD BOOT SHOP.

upper storeys over the shops in North Street were leased. These were turned into a large Millinery and Mantle Saloon and Hardware and Tailoring Departments. The Central Office was removed from Agnes Street to North Street, proving a great advantage to the members, as well as being of great convenience from a business point of view. Tailoring, dress-making, and other workshops were provided—large and well lighted—as well

as a hall capable of accommodating over 250 people.

During 1909, the continued steady increase of the business of the Society made it necessary for the Committee to consider the possibilities of expansion at North Street, and, as these did not prove satisfactory, a more suitable situation for the headquarters of the Society had to be looked for. After consideration of various sites it was ultimately decided to purchase the old factory at 20-24, York Street. The old building was entirely removed and new Central Premises built,



DAIRY (INTERIOR).

worthy of the growing importance of the Society. The old building and site cost £5,000, and the new premises cost fully £10,000 more. Whilst the plans of 20-24, York Street were being settled it was found that the wall adjoining the next property

was a party wall, and as these premises were in the market the Committee decided to purchase them in view of extensions in the near future. This was done at a cost of £2,250, thus providing for the growing demands of the Society's trade for the next few years.

To provide for further grocery branches sites for buildings were secured during the year in York Road, at the corner of Castleton Avenue, and on Upper Newtownards Road at Nos. 40-44, on which shops and dwelling houses have been erected. In December a new Branch at 173, Oldpark Road was opened, and since then the Society has acquired premises at 4, Brougham Street, in lieu of the rented shop at 257, York Street. Fine shops and dwelling houses have also been erected at 381-383, Donegall Road, and an equally fine Grocery Shop at 97, Woodvale Road. So great is the demand for grocery branches—a demand well backed up by support—that the only check to their rapid opening is the difficulty of acquiring or renting suitable premises or land whereon to build. Following the opening of the Central Drapery Establishment at York Street, Branch Boot Shops were opened at 120, Mountpottinger Road and 383, Donegall Road; and to further foster the business of the Bakery, Pastry and Confectionery Shops were inaugurated at 193, Lisburn Road, and 54, York Road.

Trade in coal is now a firmly-established part of the Society's business, and this is done from a well-equipped depôt at the Abercorn Basin, where the coal is landed from steamers chartered and loaded on the "other side," be it noted, by the Coal Department of the Co-operative Wholesale Society.

An important event in the Society's history was the celebration of its coming-of-age in October, 1910. The principal feature was the holding of an exhibition under the auspices of the Exhibitions Committee of the Co-operative Union. Two of the largest halls in the city—the Ulster Hall and Wellington Hall—were completely filled with a magnificent display by the English and Scottish Wholesale Societies, the United Baking Society, and other productive Societies. The exhibition was visited by large crowds during the week, and the impression thus created was supplemented by an imposing street procession of horses and vehicles one afternoon, and an immense propaganda meeting in the Assembly Hall one evening.

The coming-of-age celebrations were followed a few months later—on April 22nd, 1911, to be exact—by the opening of the new

Central Premises, 20-24, York Street. From the opening day the success of this venture—thought at first to be a hazardous undertaking—was assured. In little more than two years the Committee were faced with the necessity for extension, and after the usual preliminary delays, during which history repeated itself by the Society again extending its holding of land right up to Frederick Street, building was begun in 1913. When completed this year the present accommodation at York Street will be doubled, and, in the years to come, as progress warrants, when the ground now



A. R. Hogg]

HALL, FREDERICK STREET.

[Photo., Belfast.

acquired is occupied by the building already sketched, uniform with and in completion of the present premises and the extension now in progress, the Society will have a Central Drapery and Furnishing Establishment "the like of which," in the words of the architect, "there is not in Ireland."

Ground at the rear of the York Street premises having been acquired, this has been partly occupied by a hall and classrooms and a warehouse, the former to meet the needs created by the educational activities of the Society, and the latter to more effectively and economically feed the increasing number of grocery branches.



ORMEAU ROAD BRANCH.



SPRINGFIELD ROAD BRANCH.



WOODSTOCK ROAD BRANCH.



ANTRIM ROAD BRANCH.



LISBURN ROAD BRANCH.



OLD PARK ROAD BRANCH.



UPPER NEWTOWNARDS ROAD
BRANCH.



WOODVALE ROAD BRANCH.

The hall was opened amidst considerable *éclat* early in 1913, and has ever since been the centre of much social and educational work. Such work has always been a feature of Belfast Society. Choirs, Ambulance, Swimming, Physical Culture, and Sick Nursing Classes are carried on under the auspices of the Educational Committee, while due regard is paid to the circulation of Co-operative literature and to Co-operative propaganda generally. The Women's Guild very ably assists in spreading the Co-operative light, and in work more particularly pertaining to the Guild its activities are many.

*A. R. Hogg*

YORK ROAD BRANCH.

[Photo., Belfast.]

In Belfast there are four Branches of the Guild corresponding to as many districts of the city, and the total membership is 326.

Commercialism, however successful, has not obscured the vision of those responsible for the management of the Belfast Society to the many-sided character of Co-operation.

An important addition to the benefits secured to members was made in December, 1909, by the establishment of a Mutual Assurance Fund provided by quarterly allocations out of the profits, not exceeding one penny in the £ on sales. By this fund each member of the Society is assured automatically without regard to age or other conditions, except length of membership of the Society, in a sum equal to 4s. in the £ on a year's average purchases taken

over the previous three years. The fund has been found most helpful in a time of trouble by those dependent on the deceased member.

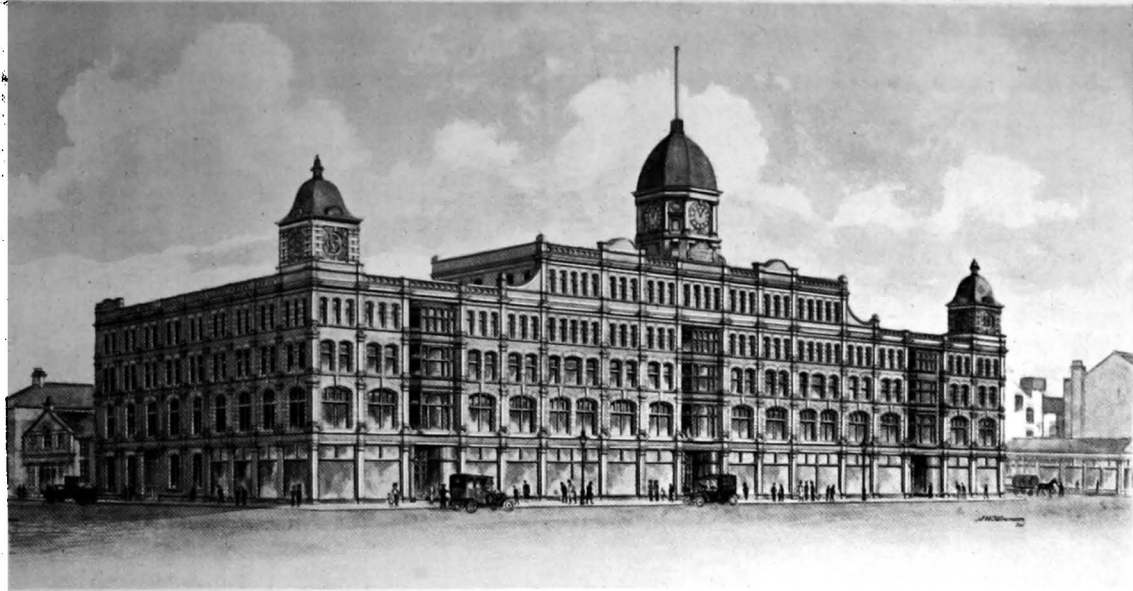
There is also in connection with the Society a Provident Fund, established for the relief of necessitous members. Week by week grants are made, and many cases of real distress have been alleviated by this means. The fund is very carefully administered by the Management Committee. Every known case is carefully investigated, and grants made in accordance with the report. The fund was created by Co-operators for Co-operators, and a grant from it is not regarded in the cold light of a charity.

Under the National Health Insurance Act, 1911 (Health Section), an "Approved Society" in connection with Belfast Co-operative Society was formed upon the coming into force of the Insurance Act. Primarily established for the convenience and benefit of Belfast Co-operators its membership is not confined to the Co-operative Society nor even to the city. It is managed by a Special Committee, the personnel of which is partly composed of Directors of the Co-operative Society and partly of other members of the Approved Society. Having at command the business experience and resources of the Co-operative Society, Belfast Co-operative Health Insurance Society is something of a model, it is claimed, of efficient and economical administration.

Reverting to the more commercial aspect of the movement, mention may be made here that to the productive efforts of the Society, such as tailoring and dressmaking, begun in 1908, boot repairing was added in 1913, and, with up-to-date machinery conveniently housed in premises at the rear of the Central Drapery Stores, this department is already doing very well.

The question of a pure milk supply to the Society's members was one that had long engaged the attention of the Committee, and after many delays and much cogitation a Dairy Department was opened on December 1st, 1913. The internal arrangements of the unpretentious building in Ravenhill Avenue have been greatly admired, and are generally acknowledged to be the "last word" in dairy equipment. Already a big business is being done, and the demand for the milk—delivered as it is in sealed bottles—is such as to tax the sources of supply to the utmost.

Stabling and garage accommodation has also been erected at Ravenhill Avenue. This building is of a substantial character,



A. R. Hogg]

BELFAST CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY'S FUTURE CENTRAL PREMISES.

[Photo., Belfast.

and makes provision for 130 horses, with accommodation for horse-drawn vehicles and a garage for motors, commercial and otherwise. The Society has now (1914) a stud of 100 horses, a corresponding number of vans and lorries, and seven motors.

Such, in brief, is the history of Belfast Co-operative Society Limited. Established in 1889, the first ten years was a veritable struggle. Then from a membership of 737 in 1900 expansion began. In five years it had risen to 2,500, in ten to 7,000, and in the present year (1914) the membership is close upon 13,000. The share capital is, in round figures, £120,000, and the trade now is at the rate of £400,000 per annum. The employees number 500. Dividend (the all-important) has never been high at Belfast. Since 1908 it has been at the rate of 1s. 6d. in the £. A like rate is paid as bonus on wages, and as regards wages it may be mentioned that the A.U.C.E. scale is recognised. Steadily and surely a Society is in the making that will be worthy, as has been said, of a great industrial and commercial community. Eminently satisfactory as progress has been during the past ten years the end is not yet.

D.G.

LISBURN CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY LIMITED.

Next to Belfast the Lisburn Co-operative Society is the most important distributive Society in Ireland, judged by sales, membership, and general activities. If the range of activities carried on by the Lisburn Society alone is considered we might well call it the most important Society in Ireland, if not in the United Kingdom. There are few distributive Societies, if any, affiliated with the Co-operative Union, which include in their range of activity an Agricultural Department, by means of which a large trade in feeding stuffs, manures, &c., is carried on with the farmers of the surrounding districts. Consequently, the credit of initiating a movement for the benefit of farmers and urban dwellers alike can be claimed by Lisburn Society.

The Lisburn Society, of course, is a distributive Society, and exists primarily for the workers of Lisburn, but under their energetic President, Mr. H. M. Barbour, the Committee have made a most praiseworthy effort to interest the farmers of the locality by catering for their special needs. The movement is yet in its infancy, although some other Irish Societies in provincial towns have taken the matter up, but it requires little prophecy to foresee an interesting vista of

inter-Co-operative trade should Irish Societies decide to go generally on these lines, and of the powerful link which would thus be formed between the two chief sections of the movement.

The town of Lisburn is situated in the county of Antrim, about eight miles from Belfast, and its chief industries are linen and linen thread manufacture and bleaching. The population of 12,000 in the town consists chiefly of workers in the various mills and factories in the locality, the chief of which is the Linen Thread Works of Messrs. William Barbour and Sons. The introduction of



CENTRAL PREMISES, LISBURN.

the linen trade into Lisburn is of ancient origin. Crommelin is stated to have introduced the linen manufacture into Lisburn about the year 1641, and since that time the manufacture of linen, linen thread, &c., has been continued up to the present. The town is beautifully situated on the banks of the River Lagan, and the workers are of a thrifty and enterprising disposition.

The idea of a Co-operative Society for Lisburn was first talked of in the Lisburn Champions Lodge of Good Templars. One of the members of the Lodge, John Cummings, had been a member of the Howwood Co-operative Society, near Johnston, in Scotland, and

at various Lodge meetings he continually spoke about the working and benefits of the Co-operative movement, with the result that it was decided to make an effort to start a Society in Lisburn. This occurred in August, 1881. Shortly afterwards the late Mr. J. D. Barbour (Mr. Harold Barbour's father) was approached on the subject, and he kindly placed a large hall at the disposal of those who wished to form a Society. All the meetings were held in this hall up to the time the Society's business premises were taken. The following resolution, which was passed on May 2nd, 1882, shortly after the Society was formed, shows how Mr. Barbour's action was appreciated:—

Resolved that the warmest and best thanks of this Society be given to J. D. Barbour, Esq., D.L., for his kindness, encouragement, and generosity in granting the use of a room in Castle Street, free of charge, for the meetings of the Society when in a state of infant helplessness, which act has assisted in a great measure to the success and prosperity it at present enjoys.

At this first meeting, which was held on August 20th, 1881, the following Committee and officers were appointed:—

John Cummings, *President.*

John Campbell, *Treasurer.* John Hull, *Secretary.*

Committee :

Hugh Steele.	William Moore.
William Mc.Keown.	John Hanna.
Andrew Smyth.	James Duff.
William Stewart.	Thomas Burke.
W. Cochrane.	John Gray.
Henry Graham.	William Downing.

At the first meeting a subscription list towards share capital was opened, and the sum of 6s. 6d was subscribed as follows:—

	s.	d.		s.	d.
John Cummings ...	1	0	William Hull.....	1	0
Andrew Smyth	1	0	John Campbell	0	6
Thomas Smyth	1	0	William Mc.Gown ...	0	6
William Stewart....	0	6	Hugh Steele	1	0

Trustees were appointed, and a bank account was opened in the Northern Bank. Committees were also appointed to draw up rules and to canvass for members. For this purpose the town was divided into districts. At a meeting of members on October 3rd, 1881, it is recorded that Mr. James Duff (Committee) read a paragraph from a paper called the *Co-operative News*, thus showing the advantages the members obtained from Co-operative literature in the Society's early career, and on November 1st, 1881, it was decided to join the

Co-operative Union. On January 9th, 1882, the sum of £54. 6s. was paid up as share capital, and four members were appointed to look out for a shop. A shop in Bridge Street was secured on January 20th, at a rent of £28 per year, and on April 11th James Tate was appointed Manager at a salary of £1 per week.

The following incident shows that the new enterprise of the Lisburn working men was regarded with scant favour by certain residents of the town. A Committee was appointed to get the name of the Society painted over the Society's premises, and the following resolution passed by them is worthy of perusal:—

Resolved, that inasmuch as Mr. ———, a gentleman from whom we at least expected approval and sympathy, has thought fit in his wisdom to be the first person of any influence in Lisburn to throw cold water on the enterprise of the working people by his refusal or unwillingness to paint the title of the Society over their place of business, that another painter be employed upon whose friendship and integrity the working people can depend.

It was also resolved that a copy of the above resolution be sent to the gentleman in question.

The shop was opened on May 27th, 1882. The membership was then 124, and subscribed capital £194. os. 3d. The turnover for the first year was £2,200, or about £42 per week. The share capital at the end of the first trading term (four months) was £246, and the membership was 130.

During the first eighteen years the Society had many ups and downs, but since Mr. H. Barbour became President in the year 1900 the tide has turned in its favour, and its career for the past thirteen years has been one of steady growth and improvement. The turnover in 1900 was £3,500, and for 1913 had increased to over £42,000. Some years ago the Society had to leave Bridge Street, and extensive premises were secured at 23–29, Castle Street, and bought out free of all rent. For some years the Society had a good Branch in the village of Dunmurry, three miles from Lisburn, and in July, 1913, a splendid new shop was erected and equipped there at a cost of over £1,600. The trade done in Dunmurry Branch alone is almost £7,000 per annum.

An important event took place in January, 1911, when the Society was amalgamated with the Antrim and Down Agricultural Society. Since that time the members of the latter Society (all farmers) have been supplied with feeding stuffs, manures, seeds, agricultural implements, &c.

In January, 1913, the Society acquired the business of the Suffolk Co-operative Society, and a flourishing Branch is being run in Suffolk also.

By an arrangement made with the Belfast Society some time ago the overlapping danger has been obviated, and both Societies have now well-defined lines of demarcation for their respective districts.

The capital of the Society has increased to £14,450, and the membership



DUNMURRY BRANCH.

to 1,450, which represents an average of £10 of share capital per member. The average share capital per member is higher, therefore, in the Lisburn Society than in any other Irish Society. Since 1882 the Society has returned a sum of £4,151 to members as interest, and no less than £24,700 as dividend on purchases.

The business of the Society, in addition to the agricultural section, consists of General Drapery, Groceries and Provisions, Hardware, Delph, Furniture, Shoes and Millinery, as well as a flourishing Pastry and Bread Department. This year the Society has also gone in for Co-operative production in the line of Dress-making, &c., and a number of hands are being employed at this work.



SUFFOLK BRANCH.

Practically half of the population of Lisburn are now served by the Society, and there is a strong probability that the next decade will see the most of the inhabitants of the town drawn within the ever-widening sphere of its operations.

The following are the names of the Presidents and their years of office:—

John Cummings	1882-1883	T. Campbell	1892-1899
John Gray.....	1883-1884	James Duff.....	1899-1900
John Higginson	1884-1890	H. A. Barbour	1900
John Mc.Dowell	1890-1982		

The names of the present Committee are Messrs. H. M. Barbour, M.A. (President), J. Murphy (Vice-President), T. Bruce, Wm. Megram, J. L. Barclay, James Press, George Andrews, Henry Watson, J. Kavanagh, Wm. Moore, Wm. Martin, E. T. Fullerton, and Wm. Ritchie (Committee). The Suffolk local Committee are Messrs. J. Moab (Chairman), Wm. Hall, Jas. Greene, Jas. Crowe, and Alexander Todd (Secretary).

The affairs of the Society are splendidly managed by Mr. T. L. Boyd (Managing Secretary), a biographical notice of whom is published in the early pages of the Handbook.

W. G. K.

PORTADOWN CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY LIMITED.

Portadown is an important urban township situated about twenty-five miles from Belfast in the county of Armagh. The town, which has a population of almost 12,000, is spread over both sides of the River Bann, and the district around is an exceedingly fertile one. In 1816 the population of Portadown was only 600, so that its growth during the last century has been extremely rapid.

The town derives its name from Port-ne-doon, or the Fort of the Fortified Eminence. Though an inland town, Portadown is well supplied with water communication by means of the River Bann and the Ulster Canal, which is navigable to Lough Neagh. Two markets are held in the town every week, and a horse and cattle fair every month. There are nine weaving factories and spinning mills in the town, as well as hemstitching factories, thus affording plenty of employment for labour, and the recreational side of the people is looked after by the establishment of a Public Park and Free Library. The town has also a Volunteer Fire Brigade.

The origin of Co-operation in Portadown arose out of the action of the local traders issuing a circular in the year 1898 to the effect

that, owing to the depression in trade, they could not give any Christmas boxes that year. Considering that a Christmas box generally meant a small currant loaf or cake, this looked much like killing the goose which laid the golden eggs. Be this as it may, however, this action of the Portadown traders induced a number of residents in Portadown (about twelve) to meet in the house of Mr. William Baxter, and it was decided there and then that they



MANDEVILLE STREET PREMISES.

would put forth every effort to start a Co-operative Society in Portadown. Full of enthusiasm for the new project, this small band guaranteed the necessary expenses of taking the Portadown Town Hall for a public meeting in case they could get a speaker to lay the claims of Co-operation before the residents of the town. They accordingly applied to the Co-operative Union for assistance in this respect, and were directed to write to Mr. James Deans (Scottish Sectional Secretary), who promised to come to Portadown after Easter. The first meeting was held in the Town Hall early in January. At this meeting a Provisional Committee was appointed, and for a considerable time afterwards this Committee met weekly for the purpose of receiving names for membership, contributions towards capital, &c.

The next difficulty was the procuring of a Store to carry on the business of the Society, and this proved no easy matter, as the new movement in the town was being bitterly opposed. However, the Committee managed to hear about a shop used by a man for marketing his groceries, which was likely to become vacant, and in Nicodemus fashion they interviewed the landlord of the house by night, and got possession of the shop before their opponents could prevent them. After remaining several years in this locality with varying success, the Society removed its headquarters to Mandeville Street, where a good Store was erected, and the necessary storage accommodation provided to meet the wants of the Society for many years to come.

The years 1905 and 1906 were trying years for Irish Co-operative Societies, owing to depression of trade, and it will be observed from the list printed below that Portadown Society was very hard pressed during that time, but grit and determination pulled the Society through, and now it is one of the soundest and most progressive Societies in Ireland.

The following were the names of the first Committee: Messrs. John Palmer (President), C. J. Ryder, J. Black, J. Summerville, William Baxter, W. J. England, J. W. Willis, R. Mullan, J. Binks, John Patton, T. Andrews, and George Gregory (Secretary). Messrs. Palmer, Baxter, Gregory, Mullan, and Binks are still on the Committee, and the new names added are Messrs. William Mc.Kitterick, J. Waddell, W. G. Holmes, J. H. Gould, J. Mc.Crory, William H. England, and James Beattie (Secretary).

The following figures show the sales, average dividend, and amount of dividend paid for each year since the commencement of the Society:—

Year.	Sales.			Average Dividend.		Dividend Paid.	Year.	Sales.			Average Dividend.		Dividend Paid.
	£	s.	d.	s.	d.	£		£	s.	d.	s.	d.	£
1897...	1549	16	0	0	10	43	1906...	4969	11	0	—	—	—
1898...	2854	5	0	1	0	95	1907...	5703	6	0	0	5	79
1899...	3656	17	0	1	2	142	1908...	6511	9	0	0	7	126
1900...	3842	13	0	1	3	160	1909...	7366	0	0	0	8	163
1901...	3843	13	6	0	9	122	1910...	7923	0	0	0	11	242
1902...	5715	14	6	0	10	159	1911...	8755	0	0	1	0	292
1903...	6165	13	0	1	0	206	1912...	9875	0	0	1	2	441
1904...	6141	16	0	0	10	170	1913...	10842	6	0	1	3	469
1905...	6704	13	0	—	—	—							

The membership when the Society opened was 80, and the share capital £87. Share capital is now £2,163, and the membership 350.

W. G. K.

ARMAGH AND DISTRICT CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY LIMITED.

Armagh, the Primatial City, is the capital of County Armagh, and is situated about thirty-six miles south-west of Belfast. It derives its name from the fact that the city is situated on an eminence, hence the name Ard-magha, "the high field." The city is famous on account of its cruciform Cathedral, dating from the twelfth century, which is supposed to occupy the site of that erected by St. Patrick in the fifth century. Armagh was a famous place in ancient days, as it was the metropolis of Ireland from 495 B.C. to the ninth century, the native kings of the time living two miles from the city. The present population of the city is about 8,000, and the chief manufacture of its inhabitants is linen weaving.



SCOTCH STREET PREMISES.

Armagh was an important Co-operative centre long before the establishment of the present Armagh Co-operative Society. A C.W.S. Depôt was established in Armagh in the year 1873 for the purchase of butter and eggs, and the purchases now include fruit and poultry in addition. The C.W.S. Depôt has accommodation for over four million eggs, and there is also a refrigerating plant and cold stores for the butter trade carried on.

The Co-operative movement was well and favourably known in Armagh as early as the year 1830, as Robert Owen was informed that year of the formation of a Society in the city. The Society, however, lapsed, and it was not until about twenty-six years after the establishment of the C.W.S. in Armagh that an agitation for a modern Distributive Store began. The beginning, curiously enough, was in the nature of a protest against the action of the newly-formed branch of the North of Ireland Grocers' Association in Armagh discontinuing the time-honoured practice of giving Christmas boxes to customers. This action led to a few informal meetings about the latter end of the year 1900, but nothing more serious was contemplated than a vehement protest against the action of the Armagh traders in depriving the people of what they considered their right. In November, 1900, the late Mr. Daniel Loughrey, a well-known Belfast Co-operator, happened to be in Armagh doing some engineering work, and he was invited to one of the informal meetings in the Old Coffee House (the site of the Armagh Society's present commodious premises), and over a cup of tea Mr. Loughrey suggested the formation of a Co-operative Society as one effective means of protesting against the treatment of the traders. At that eventful meeting there were present:—Messrs. Daniel Loughrey, John M'Keown, Thomas Hutchinson (all these lately deceased), Joseph M'Carragher, P. Byrne, Gilbert Sleator, W. W. Moffatt, and William Gray.

On the invitation of the above-mentioned, a meeting of working men was held in the Coffee House, Armagh, on December 15th, 1900, to consider the advisability of forming a Co-operative Society for the City of Armagh. Mr. Joseph M'Carragher was chairman of the meeting, and Mr. William Gray (now on the Irish Executive) was Secretary. Meetings were thereafter continued every Saturday evening in the same place, and an Organising Committee appointed to canvass the different districts of the city and neighbourhood for support. How well they succeeded the following report to the members of the newly-formed Society will prove:—

March 16th, 1901.

The Committee have pleasure in submitting the following report for your consideration, hoping it will meet with your approval. It is just three months to-night since the quick of Co-operation was planted in our midst. During these three months it has grown into a tree of such dimensions that even the most sanguine of our Committee never anticipated. Perhaps it would be as

well to say that this movement is no fad, as the grocers of Armagh would have you believe. The Co-operative movement was forced upon us by the grocers of this city joining themselves into an alliance called the Armagh Grocers' Association. They had every right to do so, but have we not an equal right to protect our interests, we who hold the key of the situation in Armagh, we upon whom the grocers of this city are dependent for the support of their princely homes? Have we not a right to some protection from the onslaught of this unholy combination? Some of the grocers of the city have used every means in their power to influence, in fact to compel the wholesale flour merchants from supplying us. But we are happy to inform you that by the assistance of our brother Co-operators in other towns we have been able to kill all the influence they could bring to bear on the wholesale merchants. This is a first victory won. We have at present 238 members on the roll, with a capital of £314. 10s.

During the time all these preliminary meetings were being held (always on the Saturday) the private traders held their weekly meetings in the same room on the Monday evenings, in order to defeat the Co-operators. Although for a year and a half a most terrific boycott was made against the struggling Society, the business gradually increased and the Committee were forced to look out for larger premises. Just at that period the old Coffee House in Scotch Street, which they knew so well, happened to be in the market, and by a flank movement the house was bought for the Society by one of the members. Since then the opposition has practically died away. On this site a splendid new building was erected, having all modern conveniences, and suitable for grocery, provisions, drapery, hardware, and coal, as well as a good hall for members' meetings.

During the early struggles of the Society Mr. Barbour, of Lisburn, proved a sterling friend. He presided at the first Quarterly Meeting of the Society, and many Armagh Co-operators still remember the organised opposition which he then encountered. The purchase of the Coffee House in Scotch Street, however, proved a knock-out blow for the enemy, and the Society was allowed to pursue its career peacefully until the local press campaign later. This campaign against the Society had a very detrimental effect upon its sales, and it eventually led to a prolonged and costly lawsuit. The Society won the lawsuit in all counts, but had to pay for it all the same.

It is now some years since the Committee erected a splendid model bakery, with plant consisting of two Melvin ovens, sifters, kneaders, hoppers, &c. This proved a great boon to the members, and, in fact, to the Armagh public at large. By means of this bakery the Society supplies bread and pastry of the finest quality.

In addition to their other activities the Society has recently taken over the Keady Society and formed a Branch there, rather than let the flame of Co-operation die in the district.

The Armagh Society commenced business in Thomas Street in March, 1901. At the end of the first quarter the sales were about £1,300, capital £352, and dividend and interest paid came to £46. The trade at present is £14,000 per annum, membership is almost 400, and share capital is £3,457. The Society does its banking through the C.W.S., and its investments amount to £720, while it has a reserve fund of £311.

The names of the first Committee of the Society are as follows:— Messrs. J. Mc.Carragher (President), H. Scanlon, T. Hutchinson, F. Mc.Parland, W. W. Moffatt, J. Farrell, J. Mc.Kinney, T. Mc.Kenna, R. J. Ward, J. Mc.Gerrigan, J. Kearney, P. Mc.Kenna, H. Payne, H. Magee, J. Cloughley, R. Morton, P. Lennon, T. Brannigan, J. Cochrane, H. Cunningham, J. Cauldwell, and Wm. Gray (Secretary).

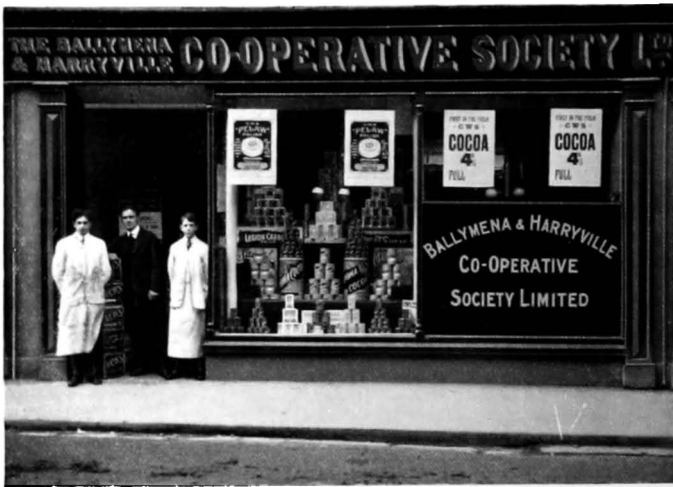
Messrs. J. Cloughley, H. Payne, P. Mc.Kenna (now President), Wm. Gray (Vice-President), and W. W. Moffatt (Secretary) are still serving on the Committee, the new members added being Messrs. R. Courtney, W. Gallery, F. Hannaway, M. Mc.Carthy, P. Rocks, J. Gillen, T. Moore, A. Tate, P. Mc.Aleavey, J. Rea, T. Kerr, T. H. Allen, T. Campbell, J. Burrows, J. Mc.Gregor, W. Kirkwood, and W. Hamill.

W.G.K.

BALLYMENA AND HARRYVILLE CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY LIMITED.

Ballymena is one of the finest inland market towns in Ireland, as well as the centre of an extensive linen manufacturing industry. The town is beautifully situated in County Antrim, about two miles above the confluence of the Braid and Maine waters, and is twenty-eight miles distant from Belfast. The population of Ballymena, about 11,400, is of an extremely thrifty and enterprising nature, and the large number of extensive spinning mills and factories in the town and district gives ample employment to members of both sexes. So far as the linen trade is concerned, Ballymena holds a proud record, as it formerly held the highest position as a linen market in the United Kingdom. The town is also noted for the abundance and purity of its water supply.

Up to the year 1905 few of the residents of Ballymena bestowed a thought upon Co-operation as a means of improving their social position in life. In that year, however, a stirring of dry bones was made manifest, and a number of worthy workmen in the town, who happened to be imbued with the same sense of justice and ideals as the Rochdale flannel weavers, met together and formed themselves into a small Committee to consider the formation of a Co-operative Society for the town. The idea, of course, was in the direction of distributive Co-operation, as it was felt that such a course would interest the Ballymena workers and improve their purchasing power.



CHURCH STREET PREMISES.

The honour of being the original pioneer in this movement belongs to the present President of the Society, Mr. Samuel Leetch, and no one knows better than he the difficulties and trials which the promoters of the movement in Ballymena had to contend with from the beginning. These trials were sufficiently discouraging to daunt the stoutest hearted, but Mr. Leetch and his fellow workers in the cause successfully surmounted them all, and in due course a Society was firmly established.

The Society commenced business in May, 1905, and the sales for the first year came to £2,403, while the dividend amounted to the respectable figure (for Ireland) of 1s. in the £. The annual sales of

the Society at present total about £10,486, and the rate of dividend has increased to 1s. 4d. in the £.

The retail trade of the Society, from 1905 to the beginning of 1914, amounted to the splendid figure of £80,652, and the total profit divided amongst the members during that period came to £4,565. In other words, the workers of Ballymena are richer by £4,565 during the past eight years than they would have been if they had continued getting their goods from private sources, and at the same time they have established a flourishing business, with a share capital of £1,391, and the investments of the Society, principally in Co-operative Wholesale Federations, total £1,210.

From the very first, the Ballymena Co-operators adopted the praiseworthy method of cash trading, and they attribute their success to this fact, as well as to the loyal support of the members. From the first, also, the Society has been a strong and consistent supporter of Co-operative productions.

During the last two or three years an Agricultural Co-operative Society has been established in Ballymena, but any danger of overlapping has been obviated by an agreement between the two sections of Co-operators that urban members' interests are to be looked after by the Ballymena Distributive Society and agricultural members' interests by the Agricultural Society, and at the last Conference Association meeting it was stated that both are working in perfect harmony and making rapid progress in their own particular sphere of activity.

The following are the names of the present Committee:—Mr. Samuel Leetch (President), Mr. William Cairns (Vice-President), Miss Alexander, Miss Mary Young, Mrs. Dunwoody, Messrs. James Gordon, R. Alcom, T. Longmore, James Kennedy, Robert Craig, Robert Reilly, Alex. Patterson, Samuel Crowe, jun., Matthew Wilson, William Young, R. Mitchell, G. Montgomery, S. Reid, C. Mc.Allister, Samuel Henry, Alexander Kerr, John Sloan, and D. J. Sloan (Secretary).

W.G.K.

QUEENSTOWN CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY LIMITED.

Queenstown, the well-known port in the South of Ireland—the spot where many Irish emigrants obtain their last view of old Ireland in their journey to the great Republic of the West—is about twelve miles from the city of Cork. Its original name was “Cove

of Cork," and its present name "Queenstown" commemorates the visit of Queen Victoria to the town in 1849. The population of the town is about 9,000, and the district enjoys a high reputation for its mild and salubrious climate.



Mr. J. DOWLING, President.

The Queenstown Co-operative Society, which was formed in August, 1909, owes its existence to two vital factors. The first is the great development in recent years of H.M. Dockyard, in Haulbowline, which has coincided with a large influx of workers from various parts of the United Kingdom; and the second is the extremely high cost of living in the district. In point of fact, it might be stated that Queenstown is one of the dearest places in the British Isles.

In consequence of the increased staff employed in the dockyard, and the continual increase in the cost of living, numbers of the men employed in Queenstown began to ask if there was no way of escape from the vicious circle of stationary wages and increasing prices. They had not been inquiring long until their attention was drawn to the Co-operative movement, and a number of the more ardent spirits decided to hold a series of public meetings with this end in view. Consequently, in the early summer of 1909 a number of meetings were held during meal hours in the dockyard, and, eventually, a Provisional Committee was formed for the purpose of getting into touch with the movement, and carrying out the necessary details for the formation of a Society. After some correspondence with several Societies in England, the Provisional Committee got into touch with the Irish Executive of the Co-operative Union, and the Executive sent Mr. Wm. Knox, who was then Secretary of that body, to assist them. In June, 1909, a most enthusiastic meeting was held in the Queenstown Town Hall, and the explanatory address given to the supporters of the Co-operative movement by Mr. Knox not only removed all doubts, but made them extremely anxious to form a Society. The address also enabled the workers of Queenstown to realise for the first time what the Co-operative movement had accomplished for the working classes of the United Kingdom, and what it really stood for. From

this time onward the task was somewhat easier, although that deadly foe to the movement in Ireland—apathy—had still to be overcome.

The Society was registered in August, 1909, nine months after the Provisional Committee was formed. The Committee then summoned the first general meeting, and the Management Committee was elected. The Store was opened on October 1st, 1909, with a share capital of £82, and a membership of 120.

The sales for the first year, 1910, amounted to £5,300, and the dividend paid came to 9d. in the £. During the next two years the Society flourished like the green bay tree, and at the close of the year 1913 the Society could proudly point to a turnover for the year of £8,000, while the membership had increased to 350, and the share capital to £540.

Like Cork Society, however, which started shortly after Queens-town, the new Society did not get everything their own way, and for a considerable period opposition was encountered from the private traders. At present, however, the opposition has largely died away, and opponents of the movement are apparently reconciled to the inevitable.

During the year 1912 the Society commenced a tobacco business, which has proved a great help to it. An Educational Committee was also formed, the members of which worked strenuously to refute the charges made by private traders against the Society. A Branch of the Women's Guild was also started, and the members of the Guild are displaying a deep interest in the movement.

More than a brief reference is necessary at this stage to call attention to the work done for the Queenstown Society by



QUEENSTOWN STORE.

Mr. Dowling, the President of the Society, and one of the finest workers for Co-operation that the South of Ireland has yet produced. Mr. Dowling acted at first as Secretary of the Provisional Committee and Chief Organiser for the Society. In 1911 he was appointed President of the Society, and has since held the position with much acceptance. His character generally is of a modest, unassuming type, but he is a grand worker, a fluent speaker, and a good business man. To show the zest Mr. Dowling throws into the work for the movement it might be stated that he was a member of the Provisional Committee of the Cork Society when it was formed, and actually held the dual position as President of both Cork and Queenstown Societies for about two years. This is a record for



GROUP COMPRISING GENERAL, EDUCATIONAL, AND WOMEN'S GUILD COMMITTEES; ALSO THE STAFF (FRONT ROW).

Ireland in the way of official activity. Studying the social question and the high cost of living drove Mr. Dowling to Co-operation as the most effective remedy for social evils. Upon resigning his position as President of the Cork Society, the members of the Cork Society voted a substantial sum to Mr. Dowling (as a presentation) in recognition of his services to the Society. Mr. Dowling is a staunch trade unionist as well as a convinced Co-operator.

The Queenstown Society owes a great deal of its success to the present Manager, Mr. Curran, who obtained the position in January, 1913. Since then Mr. Curran has been a Manager of which any Society might be proud. Mr. J. Allen is the efficient Secretary of the Society, from whom most of the foregoing details have been obtained.

The Queenstown Society is the only one in Ireland to have started an allotment scheme for its members, having lately acquired seven acres of land from Lord Barrymore, and two acres of which are now being utilised as allotment plots for members.

The foregoing details will show that the members of the Queenstown Society are fully alive to their responsibilities, and that those in charge of the Society's destiny are animated by high ideals and united in their determination to make it an efficient lever for the uplifting of the working classes of the town.

W.G.K.

CITY OF CORK CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY LIMITED.

On this I ponder, where'er I wander,
And thus grow fonder, sweet Cork, of thee,
With thy bells of Shandon,
That sound so grand on
The pleasant waters of the River Lee.

Father Prout.

Cork, the third city in Ireland in population, wealth, and commerce, has been immortalised by that beautiful poem entitled "The Bells of Shandon," by the Rev. Francis Mahony (Father Prout). It is, as every reader of Irish history knows, beautifully situated in a picturesque valley by the side of the River Lee. Part of the city is built on an island, or group of islands, formerly a swamp, which the word "Cork," "Corcoch," or "Corcaig" implies, the houses themselves being mostly built of red sandstone. There are numerous bridges across the river to the central islands. From its uneven ground, irregular streets, interesting river, and overhanging heights Cork city presents to the traveller a pleasant and picturesque view. The city is also famous by reason of the size and safety of its harbour, which could safely float the whole British Navy. The origin of the city was an abbey founded in 600 by St. Finbar, around which the city grew. The Danes built the city walls in the ninth century, and the city itself was surrendered by Dermot Maccarthy, King of Cork, to Henry II., in 1172. Cromwell besieged and took it in 1649 and Marlborough in 1690. It was in Cork that William Penn, the founder of Pennsylvania, became a Quaker. Father Matthew, the great Irish temperance advocate, laboured with success in Cork for many years, and a statue has been erected in the city to his memory.

The principal industries of the city are tanning, distilling, brewing, chemical manures, iron foundries, tweed, friezes, &c. As a butter market Cork has always borne a deservedly high name.

It was not until the year 1910 that Co-operation obtained a foothold in Cork, and the following record of its commencement, progress, and ultimate success can best be given in the words of Mr.



Mr. O'LEARY, President.

D. C. O'Leary, the energetic President of the Society, who kindly supplied the necessary details.

After various unsuccessful attempts, says Mr. O'Leary, Co-operation took a tangible form in Cork in November, 1909. A small band of workers, full of enthusiasm for the cause, held a meeting at the A.S.E. rooms, and decided to invite the various trade bodies to send delegates to a subsequent meeting. The result was the formation of a Provisional Committee representing nearly every trade and labour body in the city. The Society was registered in January, 1910, after

which the Committee set about the collection of the necessary share capital, and it was then they realised the uphill fight they would have to face. Political feeling was very high at the time, and it was almost impossible to get the working class to think on anything else. In fact, the Trades Council got split up, and there was the spectacle of different unions meeting in two different Trade Councils, each denouncing the other about politics, and none of them could find a word of approval for the newly-formed Co-operative Society. Stranger still, none of the principal men in either Council either joined himself or gave any assistance whatever to the movement. The Cork Coal Company, which had been started and financed principally by the working class, had just failed, although it had been supported loyally by them, even when they were often supplied with a very inferior article. Naturally, the people of Cork were very suspicious of investing their hard-earned savings in any new venture.

The Provisional Committee, however, had their hearts in their work, and, despite those difficulties, the money came in steadily, if slowly. Each member of Committee had his book, and he handed over his shillings and sixpences every week, sometimes collected in the workshop, in the Society room, at the street corner, or even at the member's door. When £300 had been subscribed the Provisional Committee was disbanded, and the first Committee of Management

was appointed. They were as follows:—Officers: J. Dowling, President; D. C. O'Leary, Secretary; P. J. Keily, Treasurer. Committee: J. Ryan, J. M'Auliffe, M. O'Neill, T. Enright, C. O'Shea, P. Crowley, J. Watson, J. Cotter. Mr. P. F. Turpin was appointed Manager.

The Committee looked about for suitable premises, and after several places had been inspected they decided to take over the



CENTRAL PREMISES, 10, GT. GEORGE'S STREET.

premises, 10, Great George's Street, and the shop was opened for the sale of groceries and provisions on July 10th, 1910.

From the opening of the shop everything seemed to prosper with the Society. Week by week the sales were steadily increasing, and the Committee were naturally ambitious to embark in further enterprises, with the result that in the January of the following year they decided to supply their members with bread. The local master bakers were approached, and an agreement was signed by one of the most prominent to supply the Co-operative Society with bread at

3s. 6d. in the £ discount. The bread supplied was of a very high standard, and the Society's sales steadily increased, which, of course, meant a corresponding decrease in the sales of its competitors. The climax came when suddenly the Committee were informed by the master baker in question that he could not see his way to supply bread after a certain date—this notwithstanding the fact that he was receiving weekly cheques. Here, then, was a fresh trouble, as the Committee were able to find out that every member of the Master Bakers' Federation had signed a bond not to supply the Co-operative Society with bread, the reason assigned afterwards in their official organ ("The Master Baker") being that the Co-operative system of trading was unfair by giving "discount," which, they stated, was against the rules of the Master Bakers' Association, and at the very same time each and every member of the Association was giving discount himself.

The Committee were then compelled to find some other means of getting bread, and luckily they discovered that one baker in Cork was not a member of the Association, and they succeeded in making an agreement with him. Things, however, did not turn out satisfactorily, and the Committee decided to become their own producers. Various bakeries to let and for sale were inspected, and the result was the taking over of the Bakery at Rocksavage, Anglesea Street. The premises were small, with but one oven, and the adjoining store had to be taken for further developments, and all the other equipments necessary for a bakery had to be installed. Still, on the anniversary of the opening of the shop the Committee were able to inform the shareholders that they were in a position to bake their own bread for the future.

Owing to the inferior bread supplied after the decision of the Master Bakers' Federation, the sales were dropping steadily; they reached as low as 1,200 pairs per week, but at the time the bakery was started they were little more than one-half this amount. However, immediately that the Productive Department was started sales began to increase, and six months later they had jumped to 1,800 pairs per week, which necessitated the erection of a second oven. All the flour used during this time was milled in Cork.

Sometime later the Queenstown Co-operative Society had a similar experience with the master bakers of that town, and the Cork Society came to the rescue, and since then are supplying the Queenstown Society with bread on more favourable terms than what they had been receiving before.

The master bakers in Cork and Queenstown found themselves nonplussed, but they could not move, as any action on their part would only mean an advertisement for Co-operation. Their chance came, however, with the increased price of flour, and when the price of bread was raised in Dublin, Belfast, and the English cities it remained at the old price in Cork. The Society's competitors apparently hoped that it would not exist through the crisis, and their hopes would have been realised were it not for the loyalty of the majority of the members. The shareholders stood by their Society in the hour of need, and when things looked gloomy, and when the dividend dropped from 1s. to 9d., and from that to 6d., and even when no dividend was declared at all, they still continued to give their loyal support to the Stores. This was very encouraging to the Committee, and they used every endeavour to cut down working expenses where at all possible, in order to be able to pay a dividend.

Things amended, however, with the reduction in the price of flour. The Cork Society has existed through the crisis, despite the indirect attack of their competitors, and the old dividend of 1s. in the £ has been declared at the last three audits of the Society. Further, the sales for the quarter ended January, 1914 (£1,975), have beaten all records, and everything seems to show that the Co-operative movement has been placed on a firm basis in the city by the Lee.

The following are the names of present officers and members of Committee:—D. C. O'Leary, President and late Secretary; T. Enright, Secretary; P. J. Keily, Treasurer. Committee: Messrs. J. Ryan, J. M'Auliffe, R. Welch, C. Horsey, M. Collins, T. Stewart, R. Simpson, C. O'Shea, R. F. Turpin (Manager).

W.G.K.

ENNISKILLEN CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY LIMITED.

Enniskillen, in County Fermanagh, is called "the island town." It is situated on an island in the river connecting the upper and lower lakes of Lough Erne, and on the adjacent mainland on both sides, which communicate with each other by two bridges. The population of Enniskillen at the last census was 4,847. It is a good market town, and is ninety-three miles distant from Belfast, the town covering an area of 129 acres.

For many years previous to the formation of a Co-operative Society in Enniskillen the movement was well known in the district through the formation of a *dépôt* of the S.C.W.S. in the

year 1885. It was often a matter for surprise that nothing was done in the way of distributive Co-operation until the year 1910, although the residents were well known to be in favour of it. However, since that year there has been no doubt of the feeling of the inhabitants in favour of the movement, and the Enniskillen Co-operative Society is now looked upon as one of the finest and most successful examples of Co-operative organisation in Ireland.

These splendid results have been mainly due to the energy and enterprise of Mr. W. R. Whyte, J.P., the local Manager of the S.C.W.S. Depôt, who has been President of the Enniskillen Society since its formation, and to the able assistance of Mr. W. S. McLaughlin (Secretary) and a hard-working Committee.



ENNISKILLEN STORES.

Although the Society was formed in the latter part of the year 1910 it was not until the beginning of 1911 that it commenced business. The first quarter's sales amounted to £963, and the profits to £54. The sales for the quarter ended March 2nd, 1914, came to £1,288, and the net profit to almost £81. The total turnover for the year 1911 was £3,410; for 1912, £3,787; and for last year, £4,621. The profits for the year 1911 came to £193; for 1912, £219; and for 1913, £226. The total sales for the three years were £11,552, and the dividend paid £639. The capital of the Society is now £606, and the membership is 220. The dividend paid the first year was 1s. in the £; at present the dividend is 1s. 2d. in the £.

Last year the steady upward trend of the sales compelled the Society to leave 34, Townhall Street, their first shop, and remove to more commodious premises at 16, High Street. This step was

absolutely necessary on account of the rapid increase of trade, and the Society is now in possession of suitable premises sufficient to meet expansion for many years to come.

TRADE SINCE COMMENCEMENT.

NO. OF QUARTER.	ENDED.	SALES.			PROFITS.		
		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1st	March 1911	963	14	4	54	8	4
2nd	June 1911	788	18	9	45	8	11
3rd	September 1911	750	5	6½	42	11	2
4th	December 1911	907	16	8	50	11	7
5th	March 1912	967	13	5	63	2	0
6th	June 1912	881	16	5	45	6	6
7th	September 1912	933	5	9	49	5	11
8th	December 1912	1004	11	7	61	19	3
9th	March 1913	1045	11	0	57	7	3
10th	June 1913	1011	10	2	55	13	2
11th	September 1913	1054	7	4	57	6	6
12th	December 1913	1213	1	7	56	4	9

The names of the present Committee are: Messrs. W. R. Whyte (President), J. Walker, J. Cassidy, James Aitken, John Ward, William Lunny, F. Cassidy, John Jeffers, T. Mc.Fadden, J. O'Carroll, Stewart Hamilton, James Gray, William Clarke, Robert Porteous, and W. S. McLaughlin (Secretary). W.G.K.

LUCAN AND DISTRICT CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY LIMITED.

Co-operation had long been talked of in Lucan as one method of combating high prices and little or no competition, but nothing was done till the end of 1900. The Lucan Society arose out of a discussion by some four or five employees at the local woollen mills on the subject of Co-operation. It was decided that something should be done if at all possible.

One of the number made a canvass and called a meeting of some eighteen or twenty residents, while another placed his house at their disposal to hold the meeting, and who, by the way, is still serving on the Committee. At this meeting all those present pledged themselves to do their utmost to establish a Society, and a Provisional Committee was appointed to carry out same.

A vigorous canvass was therefore entered upon with the result that a public meeting was announced to be held on Monday night, January 16th, 1901, to be addressed by that sterling friend of Irish Co-operators, Mr. James Deans.

The posters announcing the meeting were put up by two of the Committee, who went forth with their paste, &c., the Friday

previous to the meeting, setting out at midnight. All the bills, however, were torn down before six the next morning. It appears the Co-operative bill stickers were followed by one of the local traders, who tore down the posters wherever they were put. This was a serious blow for the Committee, as there was no further time to get a fresh supply in order to combat the traders and carry out the meeting. A raid, therefore, was made on the post office and all the post cards possible were purchased. These were sent out to all the persons that the Committee could get names of, and who lived in the surrounding districts, and were delivered on Sunday morning through the post.

As there were only two posters left, these were put on a board (one on each side) and hung on the chapel gate on the Sunday morning. It was agreed that the Committee should keep watch from 7 a.m. to 12 p.m., relieving each other in turn. This was faithfully carried out and was a great advertisement. Those who did not see the bill going into the chapel saw it when they came out.

Father Donegan, C.C., deserves the sincere thanks of Lucan Co-operators for his support during this trying time, as he not only allowed the board to be placed on the chapel gate, but also gave them the school for the meeting free of charge.

The meeting was thus held after all the opposition, and was a great success. It was resolved that a Co-operative Society be established in the village, and the Society was registered exactly a month afterwards, February 16th, 1901.

Being situated in a country district, and the prevailing wages being small, it took some months to gather sufficient capital to commence business operations. The members paid in their shares at the rate of from 3d. to 1s. 6d. per week.

The next difficulty was to get a shop. Here the Lucan Co-operators were baulked at every turn, but they ultimately got a dwelling house which they decided would suit their purpose. The



LUCAN STORE.

capital which had been collected was only £68 all told. The Committee decided that they would purchase the necessary timber for the counters, shelves, &c., and that they would do the work themselves. This was procured, the work commenced, but, as is usual, the work had to be done by those possessing the most enthusiasm. However, some did stick to the work and often worked till long after midnight, and eventually the work was completed.

The Committee were exceptionally proud of the sign, which had been made and painted by one of themselves, but although it was put in its position at 4-30 in the morning before the Committee went to work, to their great sorrow they found the next morning that the name had been almost obliterated by tar having been thrown on it, and "Lucky Bags" was written on the piers of the gate leading to the shop with the same material. However, the Society had more friends than the opposition reckoned on. The Co-operative Union were acquainted with the facts, and they instructed the Committee to employ a good Dublin solicitor and proceed against the Dublin County Council for malicious damage, and said they would stand by us. This was done, £10 was claimed, and the case was won with 30s. costs thrown in. Business was commenced on September 3rd, 1901, and it is hardly necessary to say that when the £10 was paid to the Society by the County Council it was voted to be a "Godsend," as the Committee were living from hand to mouth for the want of capital. This was used for the purpose of carrying on the Society for a long time, and appeared in the balance sheet as a suspense account.

The first dividend declared was threepence in the £. It will be interesting to note that the capital as at March 3rd, 1902, was £67. 8s., while at November 29th, 1913, it stood at £296. 3s. 7d. For the twelve years' trading a total of £128. 14s. has been paid in interest and £2,927. 19s. 8d. in dividend. The sales for the first year were £1,512, and for 1913 they came to £5,083. The Society owns its own premises at a cost of close on £600, and enjoys the proud position of having a reserve fund of £350, or £50 over the total capital of the Society.

One episode in the history of the Society is much to be regretted, viz., the abolition of the Educational Grant, 2½ per cent of the net profits, some eighteen months ago. It is to be hoped that Lucan Co-operators will again revert to their former practice, for no Co-operative Society worthy of the name can hope to fulfil its functions to the community without an Educational Department.

LARNE CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY LIMITED, Co. ANTRIM.

The town of Larne is well known to North of England and Scottish Co-operators as one of Ireland's most famous seaside resorts. It is situated about seventeen miles north-east from Belfast by road,

and twenty-four miles by rail. The town has a population of about 7,000, but in the summer this number is greatly increased. It has a magnificent harbour, and a mail steamer plies daily between the town and Stranraer. The Larne and Stranraer route is now one of the chief means of communication between Ireland and Great Britain.



CENTRAL PREMISES, MAIN STREET.

fortress against the predatory bands of Scots who infested the north-eastern coast."

The original founders of the Larne Society, which was established in 1904, were Messrs. William Stewart (who became first President), Thomas Beattie, Charles Rae, Francis Beattie, Archibald Craig, Matthew Hilton, Robert M. Craig, and Thomas Harland (who became first Secretary).

All of these men, who are factory employees, held their preliminary meetings during meal hours in an empty cottage, which one of their number was repairing and doing up for his employer.

They had many difficulties to overcome, but their enthusiasm was equal to the occasion, and in due time they got their Store established. The first Store was managed by Mr. Samuel Wylie, who is now General Manager and Secretary of the Dublin Industrial Society, and under his enterprising direction the Larne Store flourished, in spite of the great opposition of the local traders. Mr. Wylie left the Society in 1906, and owing to changes of management and other causes matters looked rather critical from that date until 1910, when Mr. Mc.Cosh, who had just left the Ballymena Society, was appointed Manager. Under Mr. Mc.Cosh's influence matters began to improve, and since that time the Society has made extremely satisfactory progress.

At the invitation of the employees of the Kilwaughter Weaving Company and Bleaching Works a Branch Store was opened at the village of Millbrook at the beginning of the present year (1914). This Branch shows every indication of being a very successful undertaking, and will undoubtedly be a good help to the parent Society as well as to the Millbrook residents.

One of the first things which helped the Larne Society to secure a better grip in the town was the establishment of the U.C.B.S. Branch Bakery in Belfast, and Larne Society soon became famous in the town and district by reason of the excellent bread obtained from this Branch.

The sales of the Society for the first year amounted to £2,600, and the rate of dividend paid was ninepence in the £. The sales for the past year have increased to £4,530, and this total will be largely increased when the new Branch is in full swing.

One of the methods by which the Larne Society hopes to increase its business is by catering for the large numbers of holiday makers who come yearly to Larne from various English and Scottish Co-operative centres. Mr. Dummer, the energetic Secretary of this



MILLBROOK BRANCH.

Society, is making special efforts to induce these holiday makers, who are mostly Co-operators, to carry on a business with the Society by means of transfers, the same as obtain in Blackpool and other holiday resorts in England. There is no reason why cross-Channel Co-operators should not help their Irish brethren in this respect, and have the satisfaction of knowing that, though in Ireland on holiday, they can still obtain Co-operative products the same as at home, and under the same conditions.

The names of the present Committee are: Messrs. Robert F. Mackie (President), Samuel Boyd (Vice-President), Tom Heys, Gordon Elder, Charles McLean, Thomas Carmichael, Alexander Stewart, J. A. Haslett, C. M'Kinlay, T. H. Pullen, and E. G. Dummer (Secretary). The Manager's name is Mr. William Prior.

W.G.K.

DRUMANESS CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY LIMITED.

The Drumaness Co-operative Society is one of the latest and most successful of the Co-operative Societies established in the North of Ireland by means of the Irish Executive of the Co-operative Union.

Drumaness itself is a pretty little village situated in the County Down, about three miles from the town of Ballynahinch. The principal works of the district are those of Messrs. Hurst, the proprietor himself being a splendid example of what a model employer should be. When the idea of forming a Co-operative Society for the neighbourhood was first mooted Mr. Hurst gave every assistance, and gave the use of his splendid dining-rooms in his mill for the purpose of holding meetings in connection with the project.

The following description of the rise and progress of the Society has been supplied by Mr. J. Wright, the enterprising Secretary of the Society.

In the early summer of 1911 a meeting of the workers employed in the Drumaness Mills was held in the barn of Mr. Edward Small, farmer, for the purpose of starting a Co-operative Society for the district. Mr. Charles Bradley, an experienced Co-operator, who presided over the meeting, fully explained the principles and benefits to be derived through Co-operation, and after some discussion it was unanimously decided to start a Store. A Provisional Committee was formed to carry out the preliminary arrangements.

The great difficulty that presented itself at the outset was the want of suitable premises in which to start a shop, there being not one single place available in the whole district. But, fortunately for the movement, the unexpected happened. Mr. Robert Dornan, a country smith who rented a forge from Mr. Hugh Currie, had acquired a labourer's cottage, and decided to erect a forge of his own. The Committee promptly interviewed Mr. Currie, and secured a ninety-nine years' lease of the building and half an acre of ground at a yearly rental of £3. After carrying out extensive alterations and repairs they converted the one-time forge into a neat and comfortable shop, where business was commenced on Saturday, August 5th, 1911, with a membership of eighty and a paid-up capital



DRUMANESS STORE, Co. DOWN.

of £205. 14s. 6d. To give an idea of the enthusiasm of the new Co-operators it might be mentioned that the cash drawings on the first day amounted to the respectable sum of £34. 10s. 10d. The accompanying photo taken the week after the Store was opened shows a number of bare-footed children, but since the advent of Co-operation a bare-footed youngster is a rarity in the district. The Society's first quarter of 16 weeks, which ended on December 1st, showed sales to be £658. 16s. 11d. After allowing for depreciation and putting £5 to reserve, the net divisible profit amounted to £54. 6s. 2d., which allowed the Committee to declare a dividend of 1s. 6d. in the £ to members, a rate which they have consistently paid. On two occasions, namely, December, 1912, and December, 1913, they paid dividend at the rate of 1s. 9d. in the £, and they have entered the year 1914 with the full confidence that they will maintain

ROSSLARE HARBOUR CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY LIMITED, KILRANE, Co. WEXFORD.

Rosslare Harbour Co-operative Society is one of the outlying posts of the Irish Co-operative movement. Previous to 1906 Rosslare was simply an isolated district situated on the coast of Wexford, but since the Great Western Railway built a pier in the place for the purpose of having an Irish travelling connection for their steamers it has become a flourishing railway centre. The population is a rather small and scattered one, and is mainly composed of railway workers.

The incidents which caused the formation of the Rosslare Harbour Co-operative Society are as follows:—



ROSSLARE HARBOUR STORES.

On the opening of the Rosslare and Fishguard route in 1906 many railway employees were transferred from up country to Rosslare Harbour. There was only one private trader's shop in the district to supply all these men with household provisions, and prices consequently ruled very high. The Great Southern and Western Railway Company kindly had a club, to

which a shop and house was attached, built for their servants, but after about one year's experience the inhabitants found it almost impossible to live on their wages, and most of the goods had to be procured from Wexford. Many suggestions were made as to how a shop could be established, until the happy idea of having their own shop was enthusiastically taken up by the inhabitants. Application was made to the Co-operative Union for assistance, and the Union passed the application on to the Irish Executive. The Executive lost no time in sending two of their members, Messrs. Fleming and Palmer, who interviewed the new enthusiasts for Co-operation, and in a very short time a Committee was formed, share capital collected, and a Society registered. The Society was registered in the month of May, 1908.

this record. The membership at present is 109, and the paid-up share capital £463. 10s. Invested funds are £90, and reserve fund is £55.

Like all other Irish Co-operative Societies, the Drumaness Society had to contend with fierce opposition and calumnies, but the indomitable pluck of the officials, backed by the staunch loyalty of the members, enabled the Committee to surmount all difficulties, and it stands to-day one of the most successful and prosperous Societies in Ireland.

The sales for 1912 amounted to £2,364. 6s. 1d., and for 1913 to £3,048. 19s. 11d., an increase for the year of £684. 13s. 10d.

W.G.K.

COALISLAND CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY LIMITED, Co. TYRONE.

Coalisland is situated in the County Tyrone, about three miles from Dungannon, and is one of the few places in Ireland where coal is being raised in fairly large quantities. The town itself is prettily situated in the midst of a fertile district, and in addition to the coal mining operations there are extensive spinning and weaving factories, flour and bran mills in the neighbourhood. A trade in pottery and spade manufacturing is also carried on in and around Coalisland. The Ulster Canal, which runs from Lough Neagh to the Grand Canal, Dublin, runs through the town. The population of Coalisland, according to the 1911 census, was 936.

Up to the year 1902 there was nothing of a Co-operative nature in Coalisland, but in that year, as the result of some vigorous propaganda work on the part of the I.C.C.A., the Coalisland Co-operative Society was formed. For the first year the sales came to £2,500, an average of about £50 per week, while the dividend paid in that year amounted to £37. 10s. Some years after the Society was started, however, the Committee were fortunate in obtaining the services of Mr. Girvin as Manager, who had been previously engaged in Co-operative service in Scotland, and the Society has since gone on with increasing prosperity. Under Mr. Girvin's management the Society bought the Coalisland Town Hall, and turned it into a Store for themselves, and the annual sales now amount to almost £4,000, and the rate of dividend paid is one shilling in the £.

For the quarter ending January last the Coalisland Society broke all records for sales, net profits, and low rate of working expenses.

W.G.K.

**ROSSLARE HARBOUR CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY
LIMITED, KILRANE, Co. WEXFORD.**

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Some remarkable happenings took place after the formation of the Society. Coal which was formerly sold by the private trader at the rate of 30s. per ton speedily dropped to 19s. per ton! Hand-bills were also sent out by private traders advertising the cheapness of their goods, but the lure proved unavailing, as the members loyally stuck to their own shop, and since then the Society, with the exception of the year 1913, has had a remarkably successful career. So far as average purchases per member is concerned the Rosslare Harbour Society takes a deservedly high place. The membership of the Society is nominally 65, but the purchasing members number about 40, the other 25 shareholders having been transferred from Rosslare Harbour to other districts since the formation of the Society. The sales for the quarter ending March, 1914—£556—show that the average purchase per member is well over £1 per week. This is a record which cannot be beaten by any Society in Ireland, and very few in England or Scotland.

The Society started with a capital of £60.

During the first year the sales of the Society amounted to £1,980, an average of almost £1 per week per member, and up to the railway labour dispute of 1912 it was making as much progress as was possible in such a sparsely-populated district. Being principally railway men most of the members of the Society were affected by this dispute, and during the year 1913 heavy losses were incurred, and the loyalty of the members tested to the utmost. But the struggle terminated successfully, and Rosslare Harbour Society has now regained its former position. For the quarter ending March 1914, the sales amounted to £556, and net profit to £50, which has enabled the Committee to pay a dividend of 1s. 6d. in the £. This splendid result is due to the loyalty of the members and the good work of the Manager (Mr. E. Cavey), ably assisted by the following Committee: Messrs. T. Ryan (President), M. Moroney (Treasurer), E. V. White (Secretary), D. Callaghan, M. Walsh, J. Breen, J. Roche, P. Smith, T. Linegan, W. Biggins, and B. Boyce.

The names of the Committee when the Society was registered in 1908 were: Messrs. T. Ryan (President), J. Boyce (Treasurer), J. Breen (Secretary), M. Moroney, D. Callaghan, H. Toxtton, M. Massey, and T. Martley.

Sales for last year amounted to £2,485.

W.G.K.

NEWTOWNARDS CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY LIMITED.

Newtownards, the capital of the Ards district in County Down, is a prosperous town situated about eight miles from Belfast. The town is built at the southern extremity of a large estuary formerly known as Lough Cuan, and now known as Strangford Lough. The surroundings of the town are of great interest to students of ancient Irish history. In the old Cemetery of Magh Bile, or Movilla, about a mile from the town, there can still be seen the remains of an old abbey said to have been founded by St. Finian, who died in the year 572.



GT. FRANCES STREET PREMISES.

The chief industries in the town are flax spinning, weaving, embroidering, &c., and the famous champion roses from the Royal Dickson Nurseries are grown close to the town. The population in 1911 was 9,587.

The establishment of the Newtownards Co-operative Society arose out of the desire of a few of the residents of Newtownards to have a Branch of the Belfast Co-operative Society established in the town. This request was conveyed to the Belfast Society's Committee about the latter end of the year 1909, and a public meeting was convened by the Irish Executive in order to have the matter

discussed. There was a large attendance at the meeting, Messrs. Knox and Mc.Guffin attending on behalf of the Belfast Society. The Belfast representatives urged that as their Society had plenty to do in extending the movement in Belfast it would be better if the Newtownards people formed a separate Society of their own. This course was agreed to, and the Society duly came into being in 1910. Since that period, between troubles of management and keen opposition on the part of the traders, Newtownards Society has had to face many difficulties. The beginning of 1914, however, coincided with the advent of Mr. F. W. Preston as Manager of the Society, and under his fostering care it is making rapid headway. By an arrangement with the Belfast Society the Newtownards Society looks after the wants of Co-operators resident in Bangor, a popular watering place at the entrance to Belfast Lough.

The following was the Committee when the Society was first formed: Messrs. Thomas Mc.Williams (President), Thomas Gebbie, Alexander Steven, William J. Morrow (now deceased), W. H. Willis, James Laverty, William J. Ferguson, D. Cardy, and F. Robinson (Secretary).

Messrs. Thomas Gebbie, Steven, Ferguson, and Laverty are still on the Committee, and the new members who have since joined are Messrs. James Heron, David Finlay, John Mullan, David Edgar, and James Gebbie. Mr. Thomas Gebbie is President, and Mr. John Mc.Neilly, Secretary.

W. G. K.

MIDDLETOWN AND DISTRICT CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY LIMITED.

The Middletown and District Co-operative Society is the youngest Society affiliated with the Irish Co-operative Conference Association. It is situated in the little village of Middletown, about half way between the counties of Armagh and Monaghan, and from the first, as an Irishman would say, it has had its "fill of fighting."

The first intimation the Irish Executive received that a movement for a Co-operative Store was afoot in the village came from Mr. William Gray, of the Executive, who promptly communicated the tidings to his colleagues. The Executive thereupon sent down Mr. Fleming, their organiser, to deal with the matter. In due course of time a Society was successfully formed, but the conditions of the district were such that the Society was forced to accept articles of

agricultural produce, such as eggs, &c., as payment for the commodities supplied. The Society was met by the bitterest opposition from the first from the local traders, who did everything in their power, mainly in the direction of raising prices, to injure the little Society. Cutting of prices is a well-known method of injuring Co-operative Societies, but in Middletown, where the Society was forced to buy agricultural products in exchange for goods supplied, the method, none the less effectual, of raising prices was resorted to. In order to dispose of their agricultural produce to the best advantage the Society was forced to market such produce wherever the best prices could be obtained, and this course led, unfortunately, to an



MIDDLETOWN AND DISTRICT STORES.

early disaster through the bankruptcy of one of their principal customers in London.

This proved a severe blow to the Society, from which it has not yet recovered; and their first and latest balance sheet is as favourable as can be expected under the circumstances. It seems a pity that Middletown Co-operators should have been caught by the idea of fancy prices, but if the members stand loyally by the Society the situation may yet be retrieved.

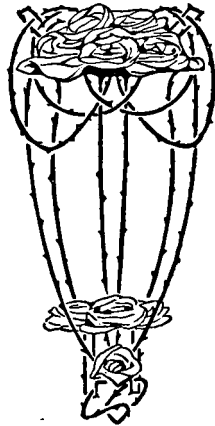
The premises of the Society are situated in an old schoolhouse, which was obtained for the purpose of a store; and the trade carried on during the period ending January 25th last (ten months) came to £2,326. The membership is 96, and the net profits on trade, after meeting all charges, came to £16. 3s. 9d.

The Committee of Management of the Society are as follows: Messrs. John Eakin (President), J. Gray, H. Lennon, F. Donnelly, T. Mullan, W. A. Bryans, T. Parkes, S. Magill, D. Hughes, J. Hughes, D. Rush, P. Connelly (Committee), and John Bradley (Secretary).

The Manager is Mr. J. J. Malone, and the Society commenced business in March, 1913.

Irish Co-operators sincerely hope that the Middletown Society may safely get over all its troubles, and ultimately beat down the fierce opposition it has had to encounter.

W.G.K.



**Agricultural Co-operation in
Ireland.**



Sir HORACE PLUNKETT, K.C.V.O.,
President, I.A.O.S.

Agricultural Co-operation in Ireland.

TO Co-operators who, like the British visitors attending the Co-operative Congress of 1914, calculate not only Co-operative trade turnover, but membership also, in millions, the Co-operation which Ireland has to show can scarcely seem imposing. It may not even seem impressive, at the first glance, if statistical tests are applied. Enquirers from the neighbouring island of Great Britain, from America, and from the Continent of Europe must be asked, however, to remind themselves, when considering the nature and extent of the work which has been done in Ireland, that we are a population of less than four-and-a-half millions, and that we have only three cities of above 100,000, the largest of which is well under 400,000, and the smallest only just over the 100,000 limit. We should also like to remind them that our Co-operative movements are, relatively to those of our neighbours, still in their infancy. The largest and most important of them, indeed, is older than the similar movements in England and Scotland, which have copied its constitution. It is over twenty years old. Indeed, its beginnings go back a quarter of a century. But these beginnings are contemporaneous with a revolution which, in part preceding it, overlaid it in no slight degree for some years, rendering its early progress slow and its success uncertain. That progress is now rapid, success assured and that agricultural Co-operation is a vital and indestructible part of the life of this country, this sketch is intended to prove, and, if the reader will accustom himself to the scale on which things work, and, indeed, must work amongst a population of our proportions, a glance at the latest figures available when the "Co-operative Handbook" is going through the press should assure him that if what is being done is but a fraction of what is still to do it is yet a very notable and quite indispensable factor in our Irish national economy.

SUMMARY OF SOCIETIES ORGANISED BY THE I.A.O.S., WITH MEMBERSHIP, &C.,
ON DECEMBER 31ST, 1912.

Class of Society	Number of Societies.	Membership.	Paid-up Share Capital.	Loan Capital.	Turnover.
			£	£	£
Dairy.....	329	46056	148086	120095	2464228
Auxiliary Dairy, not separately registered	87	...	...	...	...
Agricultural	175	18846	6971	42509	157755
Credit	234	20044	...	62206	58244
Poultry.....	18	5277	1567	2913	64513
Home Industries.....	19	3026	1025	672	4111
Miscellaneous (including Bacon-curing and Beekeepers')	25	8308	21261	12098	104415
Pig and Cattle Supply	49	1533	...	...	...
Flax	9	339	573	3682	2915
Federations	2	262	8840	16939	349008
I.A.O.S. TOTALS	947	101991	188323	261114	3205189

We shall return to the lesson taught by these figures later on. The single fact I would impress upon the reader's mind now is this: Taking the usual proportions estimated by statisticians to exist between heads of families, those who, in the agricultural calling, for instance, run the farm and home, and the total population as about one to five, it will be seen that over half-a-million persons are represented in the membership of these Societies. Perhaps a better test of the scope of the movement may be found in the fact that on a similar assumption over one-seventh of the agricultural population of Ireland are enrolled in the Societies.

To tell in brief the methods by which this result has been obtained is the chief object of the pages that follow.

The year 1889 is a memorable year in the annals of Irish Co-operation. It was in that year that the Hon. (now Sir) Horace Plunkett, having returned from Western America, started the work of propagandism to which it is due that every county in Ireland is now gathered, to a greater or less extent, within the Co-operative fold. The immediate spur to Mr. Plunkett's activities was his discovery that many, perhaps most, of those of his fellow-countrymen who had left their country for their own good might, if the conditions of Ireland had been different, equally well have stayed at home, if they had applied equal energy to work at home. It was this conviction which led him to a study of agricultural conditions in other European countries, and to the discovery of the value of Co-operation as a solvent for the Irish agricultural problem—a problem which has seemed to some to be, more even than the political problem, "the Irish question."

Mr. Plunkett was not the only student of Irish economics who was led by intuition and observation to believe that a sociological change involving a gradual revolution was needed to save Irish agriculture from the destruction in which the fall in prices threatened to involve the farmer of the 'eighties of last century, so robbing him of all the gains which the agrarian movement promised him. In time Mr. Plunkett surrounded himself with a group of publicists, investigators, and thinkers who realised as he did the nature of the reform needed, and who saw as he did that in organising farming through Co-operative Societies, such as our competitors in Denmark, Holland, and other European countries were forming, lay the chief hope for retaining the slackening hold of Irish produce upon the British market. These friends of the farmer drew their inspiration from the founder of the movement; but there was at least one man associated with it from its earliest years who was drawn to Co-operation by independent research. The Rev. T. A. Finlay, S.J., whose economic study had convinced him both of the nature of the problem and of the direction in which to look for a clue to it, joined forces with Mr. Horace Plunkett in the earliest stages of his campaign, and these two names will go down to history, not only as the pioneers of agricultural Co-operation in Ireland, but as the authors of a rural policy for the United Kingdom, and, as it may also prove, the English-speaking world. There are other pioneers also to whom attention must be called before I attempt to outline the more important phases in the development of their propagandism. In Father Finlay, Mr. Horace Plunkett found a fellow

pioneer; in his old friend, Lord Monteaigle, a staunch and constant ally; in Mr. R. A. Anderson, who was associated with him in the rough and tumble work of the earlier campaigns, a fellow-worker to whose insight, genius for organisation, and immense capacity for work he has paid several tributes; and in Mr. George W. Russell—the “Æ” of the poems and pictures which have won the hearts of thousands—who was one of the first organisers and, subsequently, editor of the organ of the movement, a fellow-idealist, whose inspired imagination has placed the movement under an immense debt. These men are too near us for more than passing mention; but without them there would have been no movement to record.

The first duty with which the pioneers found themselves confronted was to convert to the Co-operative gospel a public opinion which was not merely sceptical of their doctrine but suspicious of their motives. The South of Ireland could not understand that a Unionist politician could be actuated solely by the national well-being. The North looked coldly at an alliance between a Protestant gentleman and a Jesuit Father. It took fifty meetings to make the first experiment in Co-operative dairying. It was not until five years after the work of organisation began that the first agricultural bank was started. Those were the directions in which—after abandoning his earlier expectations that he could organise “Store” Societies on the model and with the aid of the English Co-operative Union—Mr. Plunkett and his colleagues applied the Co-operative teaching they had absorbed from a study of European conditions. Those seedlings, however, proved themselves healthy growths. The work begun in 1889 had developed by the spring of 1894 to the point at which the originators could boast of thirty-three creameries. These needed a special organisation to foster and protect them as well as to inaugurate new ones. In that year, therefore, the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society came into existence. Within a year it could point to the existence of 104 Societies (28 of them formed within that year), and the close of the century witnessed, as the net result of the eleven years’ work, the existence of 236 Dairy Societies, 106 Agricultural Societies, 21 Poultry Societies, 76 Banks, 38 Miscellaneous Societies, and an aggregate membership of 46,206 people. The steady expansion of the movement during these and the succeeding years is illustrated in a table annexed to the last published report of the I.A.O.S. :—

TRADE TURNOVER OF THE SOCIETIES SINCE THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE MOVEMENT.

Year.	Number of Societies.	Butter Sales.	Banks—Total Loans Granted.	General Turnover.	Total Turnover.
		£	£	£	£
1889	1	4363	...	...	4363
1890	1	8500	...	...	8500
1891	17	50382	...	...	50382
1892	23	98969	...	...	98969
1893	30	140780	...	...	140780
1894	33	151852	...	...	151852
1895	76	184947	...	...	184947
1896	104*	377695	388	57822	435905
1897	148†	322344	475	76134	398953
1898	243	401771	3306	270346	675423
1899	424	572963	5550	331874	910387
1900	477	703826	7270	327781	1038877
1901	564	809144	10357	363079	1182580
1902	706	885892	16480	340175	1242547
1903	840	964066	20435	406546	1391947
1904	778	1089620	31742	410958	1532320
1905	835†	1195486	43641	238411	1477538
1906	873†	1457040	50264	307145	1814449
1907	913†	1574083	53112	390428	2017623
1908	881	1666596	56004	529780	2252380
1909	835	1757969	57640	578860	2394469
1910	880	1903334	55855	630370	2589559
1911	934	1908314	56055	702114	2666483
...	...	18229936	468574	5961823	24660333

* Includes Agency Society. † No figures for Agency Society.

Meanwhile the pioneers had grown in numbers and in influence. The formation of the I.A.O.S. concentrated attention upon Co-operation, upon Continental experience, upon the whole problem of farming in Ireland. Encouraged by the hold which the new movement was taking upon the country, Mr. Plunkett, who was at that date a Unionist M.P., proposed a fresh departure. He summoned into conference his growing band of agricultural reformers, adding politicians and publicists from both political camps, as well as many of those whose neutrality or semi-neutrality estranged them from either. "The Recess Committee" was the result. The Parliamentary recess, which brought these men together and attracted into the work of the I.A.O.S. people of such divergent political creeds as Mr. John Redmond, M.P., and the Right Hon. Thomas Sinclair, D.L. (whose recent death Co-operators so sincerely deplore), or Mr. William Field, M.P., and the late Rev. R. R. Kane, D.D.,

made the beginnings of careful study of agricultural conditions in the leading European countries. The Committee, under Mr. T. P. Gill's editorship, brought out a very valuable report, in which the solution of the Irish farming problem was sought (1) through the steady pursuit of the Co-operative ideal, and (2) by the foundation of a State Department for Agriculture. These years were, therefore, years of valuable study and steady work.

It is not to be supposed, of course, that this gradual uprise of influences which are transforming the condition of the small farmer in Ireland was accomplished with the ease with which a mountain stream joins with other rivulets, and so in its expanding course creates at length a navigable river. The Co-operative movement had to face heavy odds. Ramparts of ignorance had to be washed away. Dams, deliberately built by prejudice, passion, or self-interest, had to be burst. The history of the twenty years which has passed since the work of organising agricultural Co-operation was taken over by the I.A.O.S. is full of incident, in which a struggle, not merely for understanding and appreciation, but even for life itself, played sometimes a depressing, but, oftener, an exhilarating part. Stories which have become part of the Co-operative legend—like that of the Munster town, now the centre of a Co-operative district, but in which, in the beginning of the movement, a local solicitor was able to prevent the formation of Co-operative creameries, and so to avert the catastrophe of the manufacture of any butter which was not "made on Nationalist principles," by his appeal to the political instincts of a confused audience—cannot be retold here. I must limit myself to dealing with three phases which marked the evolution of the movement.

In the first of these, the lethargy of people whose hopes in old causes had been defeated and dispersed gave way gradually before the determination of the Co-operators to fashion a new agricultural epoch. This was a period rather of struggle than of strife. The new principles were untried. The pioneers who preached them were also untried. They did not come to their audiences with the old battle cries upon their lips. Something more was demanded of the founders than that they should shout "Remember Limerick!" with the men of Munster, or "No surrender!" with the "boys" of Derry. They had to bind themselves to support a new adventure. They had to find capital for what seemed to them a speculative enterprise. They had to risk—at all events they thought so—proving to the owners of the land they tilled that the land could be

made more valuable under a new treatment of the dairying problem, the credit problem, the marketing problem, than it had proved under the old. Who knew what proportion of their increased profits would not be filched from them by the land courts? Possibly the whole of it! That was in the event of success! There was, of course, the alternative of failure, before which the most conservative of all the world's industries draws back in dread everywhere. But, as we have seen, progress was made even in those earlier years. The land courts did not fleece the farmer of the increased profits which his intelligence and public spirit were beginning to produce. The scheme was not a short cut to disaster and bankruptcy. On the contrary, the dairy cow began to become, some said, twenty-five and, some said, forty per cent a more valuable animal, once it began to be understood that butter is made from butter fat, that butter fat can only be efficiently separated by machinery, and that if the men who own the cows will combine to own the machinery they can keep the profits of their industry in their own hands. Not only did buying seeds and manures in common not deteriorate the value of these, the farmers' raw material, but, thanks to a federation of co-operating Societies*, backed by the brains, enterprise, and money of the farmers' new friends, the seeds began to yield better crops than ever. They were seeds that really did germinate! The manures, too, while decreasing in cost by perhaps thirty per cent, were more effectual fertilising agents by, perhaps, the same proportion, being—strange fairy tale in a land in which adulteration was a normal incident of buying—up to the guaranteed analysis, and all the while the business of the manure manufacturers grew apace.

It was by these means and the slow but steady successes of the various Societies that the apathy of the farmers began to be dissipated, and for some time Co-operation went forward with a rush. The stream became a river, watering a sloping valley, and moving forward with so swift an impetus that those whom it carried with it would often have wished to slacken speed. But the country was emphatic in its demand for organisers, and, sometimes against the better judgment of the pioneers, Societies were founded with increasing speed, the farmers putting up the necessary capital with alacrity.

* The Irish Agricultural Wholesale Society was founded in the year 1897. Its turnover for 1898 was £29,876, and for 1913 was £223,785. A Federation for the sale of butter was also started in 1893 and called the Irish Co-operative Agency Society.



Rev. T. A. Finlay, S.J.



George W. Russell
(I.A.O.S.)



R. A. Anderson
(I.A.O.S.)

But there are limits to the proverb that "Nothing succeeds like success." The success of the I.A.O.S. and its works evoked more strenuous opposition the more the vested interests which had been living upon agriculture found their profits being diverted from them to the producers on whom they lived. Their opposition was twofold. They made frontal attacks on the organisation movement by attempting to break up meetings, by trying in the press, on the platform, and even in the pulpit, to warn the Irish farmer of the jeopardy which he suffered from getting into the hands of the dangerous men who were making him their tool, grinding their axe at his expense, making war upon the towns, introducing idleness into the farmers' houses, and even taking the bread out of the mouths of the labourers!! Mr. Plunkett was told to "cease his hellish work," and he and Father Finlay were both denounced as the enemies of their nation and race. But the Irish farmer proved too astute for these tactics to move him. He continued to prefer "his own" creameries to those of the Irish proprietors, or even of the C.W.S. He continued by the success of his own Co-operative ventures to oust, slowly but certainly, the main body of middlemen in the northern and southern provinces. The West, too, was awake; and even sleepy Leinster found its pioneers in County Wexford. Clearly something must be done! Frontal attack was failing, but an attack from behind might work.

Before describing the phase of interested and passionate opposition which overlapped with the earlier period of apathy and finally succeeded it, something more must be said of the initiation of the Department of Agriculture. We have seen that such a department was recommended in the Report of the Recess Committee. The Co-operative movement having come to life, the sister movement, for giving the farmer the technical help his competitors over Europe and even in the colonies were enjoying, needed and received the support of Mr. Plunkett's friends. A Bill for the formation of a State Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction for Ireland was, after due consideration, drafted and, after much discussion, went through Parliament as a non-controversial Government measure. It was piloted by Mr. Gerald Balfour, the Chief Secretary for Ireland at that time; was finally passed in 1898 and came into operation in the spring of 1899, from which time Ireland has had a Department of Agriculture, unique in constitution, with far-reaching powers based on a constitution mainly democratic, and officered by the best men obtainable.

It is not the object of this record of Co-operative activities to chronicle the successes of the Department. It has exercised its wide sway ably, and is one integral element in that uprise of Irish agriculture which has kept equal step with the swift transformation of most of the land of Ireland from dual to single ownership and with the steady advance of that era of "better business" into which the I.A.O.S. and its Societies are leading the long-neglected industry of Irish agriculture. But one aspect of the two-sided movement which involved "better business" on the one side and "better farming" on the other must be mentioned. It is not always possible to make life copy theory. The hope that the Department and the I.A.O.S. would always attack the agricultural problem with the same objective, though of necessity from different sides, was not always realised. It was here, in fact, that the flank movement made by the vested interests, the proprietors, shopkeepers, money lenders, gombeeners, or other parasites, as the case might be, found a hopeful point of attack.

The Co-operative movement was possible only through the co-operation of men who had no other common ideal in public life than their sympathy for the farmer and their recognition that his salvation lay through following the path the I.A.O.S. was preparing for him. Orangeman vied with Nationalist in welcoming Father Finlay to Ulster. Nationalist Munster welcomed Sir Horace Plunkett and those of his lieutenants who were, rightly or wrongly, suspected of Unionist opinions, no less warmly. The Societies whose *raison d'être* was to secure for their members the full profits of their industry, and so to rescue farming from the control of the middlemen, left their politics outside the Committee-room (to be resumed, no doubt, not a whit impaired the moment the meeting was over) and abided loyally by the fundamental rule laid down by the I.A.O.S. for its own guidance and that of its Societies that no sectarian or party discussion could be permitted. Abstention, however, from political action of a strictly non-partisan character is not always desirable or even possible in countries governed by Parliament, and any reference made by the leaders of the movement to the fact that the farmers needed to bring pressure to bear on their representatives was misconstrued, sometimes stupidly, sometimes wantonly, into an attempt to wean the farmer from his allegiance to his "natural" leaders, the politicians. Moreover, relations with the State had been definitely contemplated when, almost from the first, Mr. Plunkett had made the claim for "State

aid for self help." The history of the relations of the I.A.O.S. with the Department of Agriculture and subsequently the three-cornered relations of these bodies and the Development Commissioners had better be dismissed in the fewest words. The Department of Agriculture once firmly established, the financial concerns of the I.A.O.S., which depended mainly on funds put up by some generous public men, supplemented by small fees paid by the Societies themselves, were constantly at a critical point, and the enemies of Co-operation saw to it that their political influence was used either to confuse the public mind or to influence the powers that be to prevent Government funds from being used for the work of the Co-operative propaganda. Grants were indeed given to the I.A.O.S. during the period at which Sir Horace Plunkett presided over the work of his newly-formed Department. But it was admitted that direct subsidy of the I.A.O.S. could not be regarded as a normal use to which the Department's funds, scarcely adequate to the needs of technical agricultural teaching, could be permanently put. The withdrawal of the grant, finally and, in the end, abruptly was not complained of by the Co-operators save in the manner of it and because it was made to appear that the I.A.O.S. was identified in the public mind with antagonism to a political party, in spite of the fact that in or about seventy per cent of the people joining the Societies in the movement and a definite majority of the I.A.O.S. Committee shared the political beliefs of the party supposed to be attacked.

The incidents in the quarrel over the grant from the Development Commissioners, now happily at an end, need not detain us long. They will be within the memory of most readers: how, since the Society's application for a grant had to be referred by the Development Commissioners, under the terms of the Act, to the Department of Agriculture, many wearisome delays took place before the application was reported upon by the Department; how, after the Department refused to identify itself with the application, the Vice-President of the Department put in an alternative scheme with the object of diverting the grant to the body of which he is the working head—a scheme which the Development Commissioners rejected; how Mr. T. W. Russell summoned the Council of Agriculture to consider the matter, and in his address insinuated a Unionist bias to the I.A.O.S., accused it of carrying on "a cruel war upon traders," and promised the Council that if the money was not granted to the I.A.O.S. he would obtain it for the Department;

how the Council, most of whose members, Nationalist in opinion, were circularised privately on behalf of their political organisation, the United Irish League, to back up Mr. Russell's policy, did so; how, on this decision being made, further delays followed, until finally the Development Commissioners' recommendation that the grant should be made to the I.A.O.S. was ratified by the Treasury, and the money was paid after over two years of a conflict which ought never to have arisen. This decision marks the third or current phase of the movement.

The only point in this now dead quarrel needing comment is the curious misuse of political machinery against a non-political organisation. The United Irish League, though to some extent a town-made organisation, represents, theoretically, townsman and countryman alike. In this instance it used its authority and influence to defeat the interests of the Co-operative farmers of Ireland, some seventy thousand to eighty thousand of whom, out of a total of one hundred thousand, were of its own political complexion, and many of whom must have contributed to its funds. This was the flank movement directed by the anti-Co-operative trading interests against the movement, and, as we have seen, it was defeated.

Early in the campaign, when it became evident that an effort was being made to confuse the public mind by the introduction of irrelevant political issues, the I.A.O.S. circularised its Societies, asking (1) whether the work of the parent body had been useful to them, and (2) whether it had ever compromised the political neutrality of the movement. Resolutions from close upon three hundred Societies, expressing their confidence in the I.A.O.S., denying the political charges, and testifying as to the value of its work, were unanimously passed, and are issued as a booklet. They form a striking tribute to the way in which the co-operating farmers of Ireland work together in the interests of their industry and towards the building up of Ireland.

The reader must not be misled by the space necessarily devoted to the struggles through which the I.A.O.S. worked towards its present position of success to think that all or most of its energies were devoted to conflict. Its struggle for existence could not have eventuated as it did if it had not behind it a record of constructive work. If the reader will look back upon the statistics quoted in the early part of this article he will see in what varying

directions the movement has ramified. A very brief account of the purposes of its various Societies may help to make the dry bones of these statistics live. Of the Creamery Societies perhaps almost enough has already been written. They cover the largest division of the Society's work in number, in membership, in capital, and in trade turnover. They represent, as nearly as can be gauged, about half the output of creamery butter made in Ireland. It is scarcely too much to say that they have saved the Irish butter industry from extinction. It is unquestionably true that they have secured to the farmers whose capital they represent those profits of their industry, without which they would not have considered it worth while to remain in the dairying business. That butter making is still one of the main branches of Irish farmers is due to Co-operation, without which the gradual incursion of middlemen into the industry would (if a so-called "Irish bull" may be allowed) eventually have converted the milch cow into the fattened bullock, and would, of course, have killed dairying in the process.

Next in importance to the creamery is the Agricultural Society. The objects for which this type of Society exists are defined in their books of rules (drawn up for them by the I.A.O.S.), with sufficient breadth to enable them to do practically all that the farmer needs to secure to him the full profits which arise through purchase of his requirements and sale of his produce. He may buy his seeds, manures, implements, and, in fact, his whole agricultural equipment through them. He may use his Society to dispose of his produce, whether crops or stock. It is chiefly for the purchase of the raw material of his industry that the farmer uses those Societies; but the end is not yet. Co-operation for sale is following, and will no doubt develop further in time. The Poultry Societies, which market their members' eggs and fowls, work on similar rules. That there are not more of these is due, in part, to the slow spread of education amongst those smaller farmers, especially in the west, for whom this type of Society was designed, and, in part—it is another aspect of the same fact—to the astuteness of the local shopkeepers, who "run" a general business, and who, partly because the farmers are in debt to them, and partly because they can afford to buy their debtors' eggs at bigger prices than a local Society can pay (reimbursing themselves, of course, by increasing their price for the necessities of life) which they sell are able to "break" any Society which, not being equipped with a "general purposes store," is unable to compete against the village trader-usurer at all points.

The remainder of the Trading Societies only need a few words of explanation. The Home Industries Societies grow fewer in number as time passes. They were formed to serve a temporary purpose—to provide work at home, chiefly lace making, for the women whose labour at the churn was displaced by the growth of dairying machinery. They served for a transition period, which is disappearing, and they will disappear with it. The Beekeepers' Societies have yet to take their place in the sun. Bad seasons have so far depressed them. The Flax Societies have helped to save for the farmers, who have made a success of them, the profits of machine scutching. But the flax industry in Ireland is not what it was once, and its future is uncertain. Of Co-operative bacon-curing it is yet too soon to speak dogmatically. It is a larger and more ambitious project than the I.A.O.S. has felt itself justified in recommending, but all the help possible has been given to the Society at Roscrea, and to the Society at Wexford, which has, so far, confined itself to the dead meat industry and to the organisation of Pig and Cattle Supply Societies—the feeders for the Wexford enterprise. The other miscellaneous Societies do not call for special comment. All these Trading Societies, not forgetting the Federations (the Irish Co-operative Agency Society and the Irish Agricultural Wholesale Society, a vigorous and rapidly expanding Society to which in no small measure the progress of the local Agricultural Societies, for whom it buys and to whom it sells, is due), trade on limited liability.

One other type of Society working on joint and several (unlimited) liability remains to be mentioned. The Credit Societies or Agricultural Banks are an adaptation of the Raiffeisen system of Germany to Irish needs. Those Societies were the basis of an acute controversy a few years ago, which it is fortunately unnecessary to revive. There arose out of the controversy an inquiry into the whole system of credit amongst farmers in Ireland by a specially appointed Commission, whose report has not yet been issued when this article is going to press. Whatever the findings of the Commission may be, however, certain facts are clear. Where the system has been faithfully followed the results have been wholly beneficial. Many a small farmer owes his economic salvation to them. Many a countryside has been revived by the improved tillage that has followed the loans (given always for purely economic or reproductive purposes) which have enabled the farmers to finance their little business at a moderate rate of interest and to

make good profits on the transaction. Many a rural community has begun to educate itself in the economies and the technique of its own business as a result of the monthly deliberations of the committee to whom the knotty problem was submitted: is it safe to lend Pat Murphy money to buy cattle when prices are declining? Hadn't he better be induced to buy pigs? Of course, where the rules were loosely kept things have not gone quite so well; but no disaster comparable to what has happened in some parts of Germany when the teachings of "Father" Raiffeisen have been forgotten, and the desire to grow rich quickly has lured some of the Societies away from their proper business—which is merely giving reproductive loans to their members—have to be reported from Ireland. Such errors and losses as have arisen have probably bought experience worth the price, and, judged by the constant progress of the credit movement, these banks have more than justified their existence. A new provision adapting this system of credit to the uses of an Agricultural Society will, it is hoped, end one of the principal difficulties from which these Societies have suffered—their legal inability to trade, which the Thrift and Credit Banks Bill would have removed if it had ever reached the Statute Book.

In this constructive work, whose beginnings we have seen, the women of Ireland will, we anticipate, have their part to play, and we have every confidence that they will put into it as passionate an energy, convinced an understanding, and unflinching a courage as has been called out by the hopes and fears of the last twenty-five years amongst the men. "The United Irishwomen," the feminine complement of the I.A.O.S., is as yet too young for its history to be chronicled here, nor would even a brief outline of its objects and activities, which are only indirectly agricultural, be possible within the compass of this article. But visitors to the Congress who are interested in the feminine aspects of sociological movements should not leave Dublin without obtaining from the Society's Offices, 20, Lincoln Place, some particulars of the work done by their branches, or without reading the very interesting booklet in which their origins and aims are set forth.

It is to unity in action and harmony in ideal that the Co-operative movement trusts as the basis of its future rather than in the growth of capital, the accumulation of profits, and the steady increase in trade to which we are able to point to-day. A movement which in so poor a country as ours has been able to attract over £100,000 in subscriptions from public-spirited Irishmen—and others,

not Irish, who have had proof of the value of the work being done—which can point, in one branch of its business, to over £20,000,000 worth of butter manufactured by the Societies it has originated, and, in another and humbler sphere of its labours, to over half a million pounds sterling loaned out in sums averaging between £5 and £10 each to thousands of small farmers, whose Societies put up close on £200,000 in paid-up capital and made themselves responsible for over a quarter of a million in loan capital during 1912, and whose total turnover in the same year was close upon three-and-a-quarter million pounds sterling (a figure which works out at about fifteen shillings per head on the total population of Ireland), may face the future confidently. But its trust must not be and will not be primarily in balance sheets, though these are the proofs of its capacity, energy, and progress. The power of the purse amongst poor men like our small farmers can arise under modern conditions of industry only out of the power of combination. It is our experience that the genius of the Irish people in all our provinces, and more especially in the more backward parts of the rural districts, lends itself to the spirit of association and responds to the call upon it of the claims of the Co-operative commonwealth which is and must become still more, in the future, the modern substitute for the clan, if our democratic State is not to lose itself in the quagmire of ineffective and sordid internecine competition or be crushed out by the grinding despotism of the organised rings and trusts that govern the modern world with an absolute sway, unknown to the oligarchies of the older world. There need be no fear that the Co-operative movement will not develop those qualities of hardness, endurance, and grit which are the partly compensatory virtues of competition. Being “set in the midst of many and great dangers,” as all human beings are, threatened by vested interests on every side, and always on its trial before the world, the movement will never be able to relax its vigilance or lose its stamina. Our enemies, we believe, will see to that. Our future is promising, then, not because our past has led us to the beginnings of success—that is in itself a danger zone—but because the success so far achieved has been due to the industry, cohesion, and loyalty of our 100,000 members, who, because their interests and those of their movement are bound together, are having to face their problems with a common intelligence and face the danger that lurks in every future with a united front.

H.F.N.

**The Irish Agricultural Wholesale
Society Limited, 1898-1913.**



I.A.W.S. CENTRAL PREMISES, 151, THOMAS STREET, DUBLIN.

The Irish Agricultural Wholesale Society Limited, 1898-1913.

THE agricultural Co-operative movement in Ireland began with the formation of Dairy Societies. Profiting by the experience of other countries, it was decided early in the Co-operative movement to federate these Societies in a central trading body, for the purpose of disposing of their produce. Later on, as these Societies began to feel the necessity of procuring many of their agricultural requirements co-operatively, they applied to their federation, which they had named the "Irish Co-operative Agency Society." For some time the Agency Society supplied them. The question then arose as to whether there should be centralisation or decentralisation in the Irish Co-operative movement. The conditions of Ireland were in many ways so different from those of other countries where Co-operation had been started that it was not thought prudent to copy too closely the organisations which they had evolved, but rather by careful and perhaps somewhat slower development to encourage the Irish people to create a system suitable to their country. The policy of decentralising the movement met with most favour, and it was decided to leave the selling of butter to the Agency Society, and to transfer the business of supplying seeds, manures, and other farming requisites to a new Society.

In 1897 a second federation was formed as the buying medium of the movement, and was called the Irish Co-operative Agricultural Agency Society. It was registered on January 15th, and its office consisted of a single room at 6, Westmoreland Street, Dublin. Its trade was confined to artificial manures and seeds, and was purely an agency business. The staff consisted of a Secretary, an accountant, and an office boy.

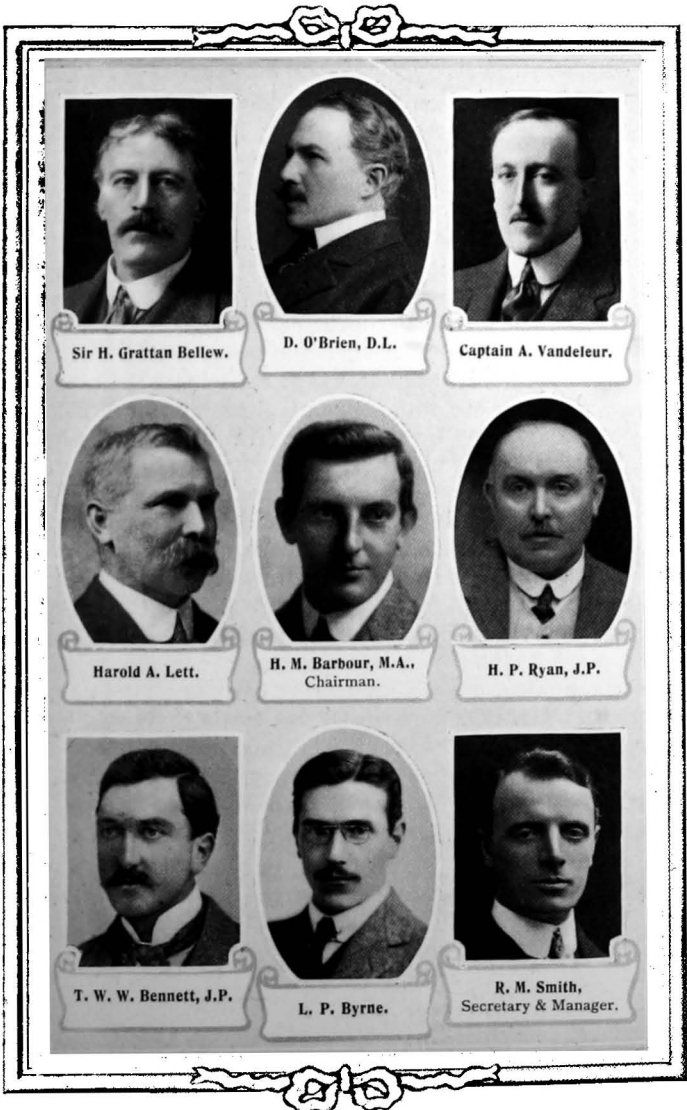
The capital required for this class of business was small, and did not necessitate any serious call on the funds of the newly-formed Co-operative Societies. Most of these were poor, and it was not considered wise to burden them with liabilities towards the support of a central federation, which did not then seem to require much capital, and had no immediate prospect of profitably employing

such capital in its business. Federation of newly-formed Societies was not insisted on. The promoters little dreamt of the struggle which lay before them, and of the dark days they were soon to pass through on account of the policy they had adopted at the commencement, and which even now they have not succeeded in fully reforming. By July the one-room office was found too small, and a new office consisting of two rooms was taken in Dame Street. The first Secretary, Mr. F. B. Fetherstonhaugh, resigned owing to ill-health shortly after this move, and in September Captain E. L. Lawrenson was appointed Secretary. In December the name of the Society was changed to the one it bears at present, "The Irish Agricultural Wholesale Society Limited."

The business of the first year amounted to £14,500; the second year it more than doubled, and reached £30,000. It was getting too heavy for the small staff. Mr. G. de Belle Ball was appointed Managing Director, and in November, 1898, Mr. Watkins was engaged as Manager. The stock of energy was very great, and as soon as the pressure of work was relieved in one direction fresh work was undertaken in another, and the Directors boldly embarked in the cattle trade. In spite of the efforts of all concerned this move proved very disastrous. Co-operative organisation had not advanced far enough, and the cattle-owning farmers had not joined the Co-operative movement. Severe as the losses were to a young Society with little capital, those of the present Directors who were on the Board then do not regret it. It taught them the great Co-operative lesson that organisation must precede trade. In January, 1899, this trade was abandoned, leaving the I.A.W.S. sorely crippled.

Up to this the manure and seed trades had been carried on on a purely agency basis. The seed trade on these lines had not proved satisfactory, and in January, 1899, it was decided to start the business of supplying direct to the Societies, and for the first time in Ireland the guarantee of purity and germination was given. Now the want of capital began to make itself felt. The little that had been originally subscribed was largely diminished by the losses on the cattle business, and the commission on the agency business was too small to enable any increase to be got from that source.

Meanwhile, the business was outgrowing the two-roomed office in Dame Street, and entering into the seed trade necessitated stores; these were procured at 151, Thomas Street in the famous old Dublin house in which Lord Edward Fitzgerald was captured, and where



Sir H. Grattan Bellew.

D. O'Brien, D.L.

Captain A. Vandeleur.

Harold A. Lett.

H. M. Barbour, M.A.,
Chairman.

H. P. Ryan, J.P.

T. W. W. Bennett, J.P.

L. P. Byrne.

R. M. Smith,
Secretary & Manager.

SOME OF THE DIRECTORS OF THE I.A.W.S.

the present offices now stand. About this time the supply of machinery, also on an agency basis, was taken up.

When the I.A.W.S. was formed Sir Horace Plunkett was elected Chairman, and now the first great change came. The Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction for Ireland had been formed, and Sir Horace was called away from his active Co-operative work to develop this department into a living working institution. In November, 1899, he resigned the chairmanship of the I.A.W.S., and Captain Loftus Bryan was elected his successor. To no man after Sir Horace Plunkett does the I.A.W.S. owe more than to Captain Loftus Bryan. In its darkest days, in the time of its fiercest fights, he gave up all his time and energy to its cause. When its financial position seemed hopeless he came to its assistance, and for many years was one of the principal guarantors for its overdraft at the bank. Assisted by the late Mr. Tisdall he devoted months of hard work in reorganising it, and instituted the departmental system, which has proved so successful, and has been the means of bringing it to its present prosperous condition. Although he is no longer a member of the Board his influence is still there, a living force to guide and direct its working. In 1899 Mr. G. de Belle Ball resigned the position of Managing Director and left the Board. In February, 1900, Captain Lawrenson resigned the secretaryship, and Mr. R. M. Smith, the present Manager, took up the duties. The trade was growing, but the capital was not increasing in an equal proportion. The debt incurred by the cattle trade was pressing down the Society, and by 1902 the financial position was becoming serious. Then a friend of Co-operation, Lord Dunsany, came forward and gave the I.A.W.S. a loan of £5,000 to supply the deficiency of capital.

In October, 1903, Mr. Watkins resigned the managership. Captain Loftus Bryan then took on the work, assisted by Mr. Tisdall. He reformed the organisation and working of the business; and in January, 1904, Mr. R. M. Smith was appointed to the position of Manager, which he holds at present. He has since worked with untiring energy and successfully steered the Society through troubles and difficulties, attaching to him all who have served under him, and securing their thorough loyalty to the Co-operative movement by the example he has set.

By the middle of 1904 the expanding trade, which now exceeded £58,000 a year, called for further capital, and the debt

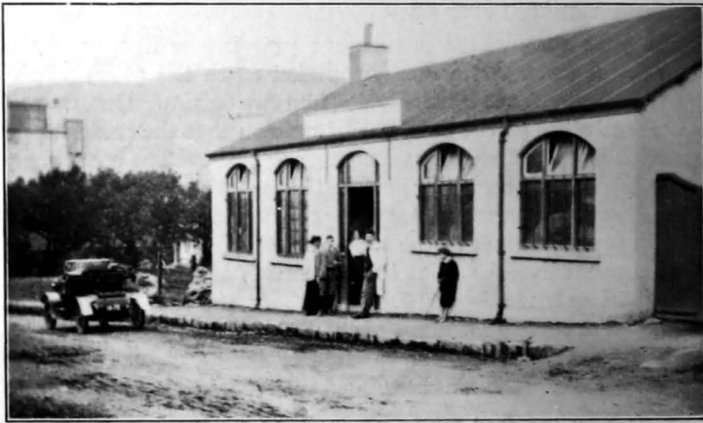
which still remained from the cattle trade had not been cleared. The Directors were heavily pledged to the bank to secure the overdraft necessary to carry on the business. All further development was stopped, and it seemed doubtful if even the existing trade could be continued. Comparatively few of the Societies in the country were as yet affiliated, and none of them realised the necessity of loyalty to their federation. But luckily for Co-operation in Ireland there was help at hand. Some generous friends of Ireland had subscribed to a development fund, and placed the administration in the hands of trustees. These came to the help of the I.A.W.S., and gave it a contribution of over £3,000. The debts due were wiped out, and the Society was enabled to commence its career of prosperity which has continued ever since.

The year 1905 was a momentous year in the history of the I.A.W.S. A strong difference of opinion as to the policy of the Society had arisen, and it was divided into two parties. One, warned by the difficulties of the past, was of opinion that the trade should be carried on almost entirely on an agency basis. The other party saw no hope of ever becoming powerful in the future except by giving up the agency business and becoming the actual wholesale suppliers of all the requirements of the local Societies. No useful purpose would now be served by going into the details of this dispute, or the attitude taken by individual Directors. At the time it led to the resignation of several members of the Board. The agency business in manure was continued, and the seed business was put back on to an agency basis. This was continued till 1906, when, in the middle of the season, the seed business got disorganised, and the Society was forced to revert to the system it had given up. The split in opinion which had occurred did not last long, and in 1908 the Directors who had left the Board returned. Since then the agency business has been given up in favour of direct supply, except in the case of artificial manures. This contract has worked smoothly ever since.

The Co-operative movement was developing in the country, and the egg trade was assuming large proportions. Following the original policy of decentralisation, which had caused separate federations to be formed—one for selling butter, another for buying farming requisites—a third federation was formed at the end of 1906 for selling eggs, under the name of Irish Producers Limited. After two years' work it was found that the trade was not sufficiently large to warrant this business being carried on by a separate Society, and

that by amalgamation with the I.A.W.S. considerable economies could be effected. In 1909 these two Societies amalgamated. This marks a complete change in the policy of the Irish Co-operative movement. Decentralisation had proved a source of weakness and expense; centralisation has proved a source of strength and economy. The I.A.W.S. became not merely a buying, but also a selling federation, taking up the sale of eggs, poultry, and honey. It has since steadily developed this side of its business, and is now in a position to dispose of all the produce a farmer can send.

In 1909 a fire broke out in the Stores at Thomas Street, and though the offices escaped, so much damage was done that rebuilding



CAHIRCIVEEN DEPOT, Co. KERRY.

became necessary. The Stores were first rebuilt and then the offices, and the present buildings were finished in January, 1912.

In 1910 another great change took place in the I.A.W.S.: Mr. Barbour was elected Chairman in place of Captain Loftus Bryan. He has proved a worthy successor, and has developed the system and improved the details of the business; he has devoted a great deal of his time to the work. Owing to him and the Manager (Mr. R. M. Smith) the trade has practically doubled since he took command, and the rate of increase is not merely maintained, but is itself increasing.

About the time of the change in the chairmanship the Directors discovered that a new force was arising in the Co-operative movement, a force before which they would have to bow. The local

Societies were federating with it, and were beginning to realise that the I.A.W.S. was not merely their federation but also their servant; that their control over it was not limited to sending delegates to represent them at the general meetings, but that at all times they were the masters, with power to order. The democratic spirit of Co-operation realised its own existence, causing trouble and differences of opinion amongst those who, up to then, had fancied that they directed the movement. Some of the smaller Societies began to demand groceries, and to insist on getting them. The



I.A.W.S. GROCERY SALEROOM.

supply of groceries was a branch of business never contemplated when the I.A.W.S. was formed, and was contrary to the policy which Sir Horace Plunkett had always insisted on. The Directors felt they could not resist the demand of their members, and decided on supplying Societies with everything they demanded. Now occurred events which caused the Directors more pain than anything which had happened up to that. Sir Horace Plunkett was firm in maintaining his original policy, but the Directors felt they could not give way to him on this point, and it was with the deepest regret that they found themselves forced to oppose the wishes of the one man to whom Irish agricultural Co-operation owed its existence.

The Co-operative movement was spreading into some of the poorest districts, where the power of the local trader was greatest. So powerful was this trade interest that the local Societies found it impossible to get the local joint-stock banks to do their business. It became necessary in these districts either to undertake Co-operative banking or give up all Co-operative organisation. The Directors of the I.A.W.S. decided to come to the assistance of these poor Societies, and a Banking Department was established in November, 1910. In 1911 the grocery business had grown so considerably that it became necessary to establish a separate Grocery Department. The controversy on this development was again raised, and it met with much opposition from some of the agricultural quarters. It was a development which had to come, but it revolutionised the theories on which the I.A.W.S. had been originally founded. The I.A.W.S. was no longer merely a federation to supply Co-operative Societies with their agricultural requirements, it had been forced to become the medium for the disposal of their produce, and the Grocery Department was bringing it into touch with the town distributive Societies. It has become the clearing house for the Irish Co-operative movements of production and distribution—the link between the farmer in the country and the worker in the town. It is teaching the town and the country that their interests do not lie in opposite directions, but that they both form part of the same nation, and depend on each other for their prosperity. It is destroying the old cry of town *versus* country.

The years 1911 and 1912 were years of great progress, and towards the end of 1912 the Societies again began to exert pressure on the I.A.W.S., to force on fresh developments. Some of the Societies had decided on attempting the pork trade, and called on their federation to sell their meat. The I.A.W.S. therefore opened an office in London, and appointed a manager to superintend their business on the Smithfield Market. This trade is developing, and will prove of great service to the Irish farmers during the unfortunate periods of dislocation in the live cattle trade, caused by outbreaks of foot and mouth disease. The Dairy Societies were getting many of their supplies from the I.A.W.S., and in the end of 1913 a Dairy Engineering Department was added to those already existing. What the developments of the I.A.W.S. will be, or when they will take place, the future only can tell, but one thing is certain, that before long there will be nothing which the farmer or workman requires to buy or sell that will not pass through the I.A.W.S. In 1897 it was



I.A.W.S. OLD PREMISES, DESTROYED BY FIRE.

located in a one-room office with a staff of three employees; now it is beginning to find that its large premises in Thomas Street are getting congested, and its staff numbers sixty-five. Its trade in 1897 was £14,500, last year it reached £223,785. The development has been steady and almost continuous from the start, and 1914 promises to show that the rate of progress is not decreasing but increasing. Since Mr. Barbour became Chairman in 1910 the trade has almost doubled. This has been brought about not merely by the time he devotes to the office and the care and ability with which he superintends the details of the business, but to a large extent to the time he devotes to visiting existing Societies and organising new ones. He is constantly on the road, and nothing daunts him in reaching a Society in want of help. His energy has proved contagious and the Directors now feel that it would be impossible to get a staff to excel the one they have in loyalty and energy.

The I.A.W.S. is at present divided into seven departments, as follows:—

NO. 1 DEPARTMENT.—Banking and Accountancy. Manager: Mr. George Morrow. This department was forced on the Society in 1910 by the difficulty of getting local banks to accommodate some of the Societies. It has more than justified its existence. Its progress has been great, and it has succeeded in attracting a large amount of deposits, on which it pays five per cent per annum on deposits subject to six months' notice of withdrawal, four per cent per annum subject to three months' notice, and two-and-a-half per cent on deposits at call. Five per cent is charged on overdrafts, and two-and-a-half per cent allowed on current credit balances.

NO. 2 DEPARTMENT.—Seeds, manures, feeding stuffs, and general agricultural requirements. Manager: Mr. W. Scanlan. Assistant: Mr. E. Keating. This department comprises the principal agricultural supply work of the I.A.W.S. Work undertaken when the country was swamped with expensive and inferior manures and worthless farm seeds, when analysis was unheard of and guarantees were unknown. It is always adding to the list of its supplies, and does an ever-increasing business in coal sent in cargoes to local ports all round Ireland.

NO. 3 DEPARTMENT.—Butter, eggs, poultry, beef, mutton, pork. Dublin Manager: Mr. C. Smiley. London Branch Manager: Mr. Cutler. This department was started when the I.A.W.S. amalgamated with Irish Producers Limited. It has agents in every

centre of importance in Great Britain. The local Societies are thus kept in touch with the markets. It has established its own brand of Irish eggs, which is a guarantee of the best egg on the English market. Since it undertook the sale of dead meat it is receiving increased support from Societies in Great Britain.

NO. 4 DEPARTMENT.—Implements, machinery, and hardware. Manager: Mr. John Baird. The trade opposition to this department is very strong, but it has prospered on this opposition, though organised trade has tried to starve it by cutting off its supplies. The I.A.W.S. is now supplying agricultural machinery, under its own brand, and is prepared to let farmers have anything from a needle to a traction engine.

NO. 5 DEPARTMENT.—Honey and bee appliances. Manager: Mr. P. Taylor Smith. The turnover of this department may look small compared with that of some of the others; it is, however, a most important department. It affords a market to an ever-increasing number of small farmers for produce which they could not formerly dispose of. It has been the means of introducing comfort to homes where formerly want existed.

NO. 6 DEPARTMENT.—Grocery. Manager: Mr. J. J. Athey. The opening of this department aroused intense hostility on the part of the retail trader, but for the reasons already stated the I.A.W.S. had no option but to comply with the demand of a large number of its constituent Societies. The only matter of regret in the mind of the Directors is that under the conditions laid down by the Act governing the grant now made from the Development Fund to the I.A.O.S. the Society can no longer affiliate with that body, the funds at the disposal of the Development Commissioners being earmarked for the development and improvement of agriculture by the organisation of Co-operation. They rejoice, however, in the fact that the most cordial relations exist between the two bodies, and that the loyal observance of the condition imposed has in no way affected the solidarity of the movement.

NO. 7 DEPARTMENT.—Dairy Engineering. Manager: Mr. L. Fant. This, the youngest of all the departments, is like a healthy child growing rapidly, and promises soon to equal if not to surpass its older companions.

In a short sketch like this one it is impossible to allude personally to each of the enthusiastic Co-operators who so willingly gave up their time to help on the work, so I merely conclude with a list of the present Directors and also all those who have served on the Board of the I.A.W.S.

PRESENT DIRECTORS OF THE I.A.W.S.

HAROLD M. BARBOUR, M.A., Chairman.

Sir HENRY GRATTAN BELLEW, Bart.	HAROLD A. LETT, Esq.
DERMOD O'BRIEN, Esq., D.L.	E. A. STOPFORD, Esq.
E. CONOR O'BRIEN, Esq.	H. P. RYAN, Esq., J.P.
Captain VANDELLEUR.	T. W. W. BENNETT, Esq., J.P.
	L. P. BYRNE, Esq.
	R. M. SMITH, Secretary.

FORMER DIRECTORS OF THE I.A.W.S.

AHERNE, DANIEL, Esq.
 ANDERSON, R. A., Esq.
 BALL, GEORGE DE BELLE, Esq.
 BARRETT-HAMILTON, Captain.
 BIDDULPH, Colonel MIDDLETON W.
 BRYAN, Captain LOFTUS A., D.L., J.P.
 DE COURCY, WILLIAM, Esq.
 DEASE, Major EDMOND.
 DEATHE, JOHN, Esq.
 DOYLE, P., Esq.
 EVERARD, Colonel Sir NUGENT TALBOT, H.M.L.
 GEOGHEGAN, W. P., Esq., J.P.
 GORE-BOOTH, Sir JOSSLYN
 HACKETT, JOHN, Esq., M.P.
 HANNON, P. J., Esq.
 HOLMES, W. E., Esq.
 LAMB, R. S., Esq.
 LOUGH, ARTHUR S., Esq.
 MC.CARRICK, HENRY, Esq., J.P.
 MOLUMBY, JOHN, Esq.
 MOYLE, P. M., Esq.
 NESBITT, E. J. B., Esq.
 NOBLE, A. W., Esq.
 PLUNKETT, Sir HORACE C., K.C.V.O.
 PRATT, JOSEPH, Esq., D.L.
 RICHARDSON, GEORGE, Esq.
 TISDALL, H. C., Esq., J.P.

H.G.B.

**The Co-operative Wholesale
Society Limited in Ireland.**



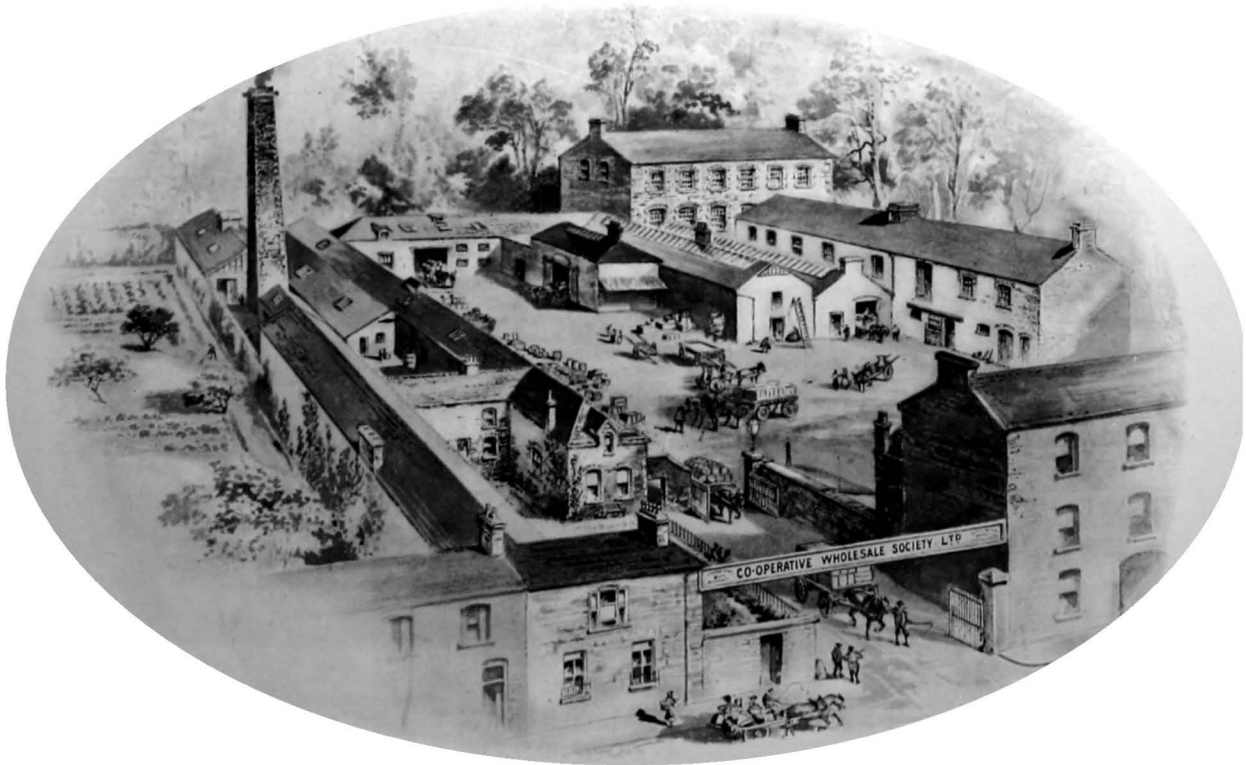
LIMERICK DEPOT : MULGRAVE STREET.

The Co-operative Wholesale Society Limited in Ireland.

THE connection of the C.W.S. with Ireland goes back to an early year in the Society's history. Fifty years ago Irish butter was a commodity of the first importance to the Lancashire and Yorkshire artisan; and only two years after commencing business, in April, 1866, the C.W.S. appointed a butter buyer, and opened a depôt in Tipperary. Other purchasing depôts at Kilmallock and Limerick were instituted within the next three or four years; while the Armagh Depôt followed in 1873, Tralee in 1874, and Cork in 1877. Then the development of the Danish creameries changed the outlook for some years, until the question arose of organising similar creameries in Ireland.

The "Story of the C.W.S." has described (pages 296-7) the part played by the C.W.S., especially through Messrs. J. T. W. Mitchell, Ben Jones, and W. L. Stokes, in aiding this movement in its infancy. Various causes contributed to the Society making itself more and more responsible for Irish creameries. From about 1890 until comparatively recently the C.W.S. accepted the position, and opened a large number of creameries and auxiliaries over the West and South of Ireland. The history of this movement has been fully told in the "Story of the C.W.S.," and need not be repeated here. It is only necessary to add that the reversal of this policy has reduced the number of creameries owned by the C.W.S. in 1914 to three: Bunkay Bridge in Co. Limerick, Kilcommon in Co. Tipperary, and Tralee in Co. Kerry. The first of these has one auxiliary, the second possesses two, and the third has three. The total output of butter from all three creameries during 1913 amounted to 6,064 cwts.

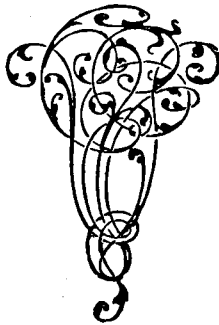
The Co-operative Wholesale Society, however, still maintains depôts at Limerick, Tralee, and Armagh, and, in addition to butter buyers at these three centres, the Society also has a butter buyer stationed at Cork. The Limerick Depôt includes cold storage chambers and a refrigerating plant, and every facility for receiving, testing, grading, and despatching butter. The Tralee and Armagh Depôts are similarly equipped. Great numbers of eggs are also collected at Armagh and Tralee, and each depôt possesses concrete tanks sufficient to preserve from 5,000,000 to 6,000,000 eggs in

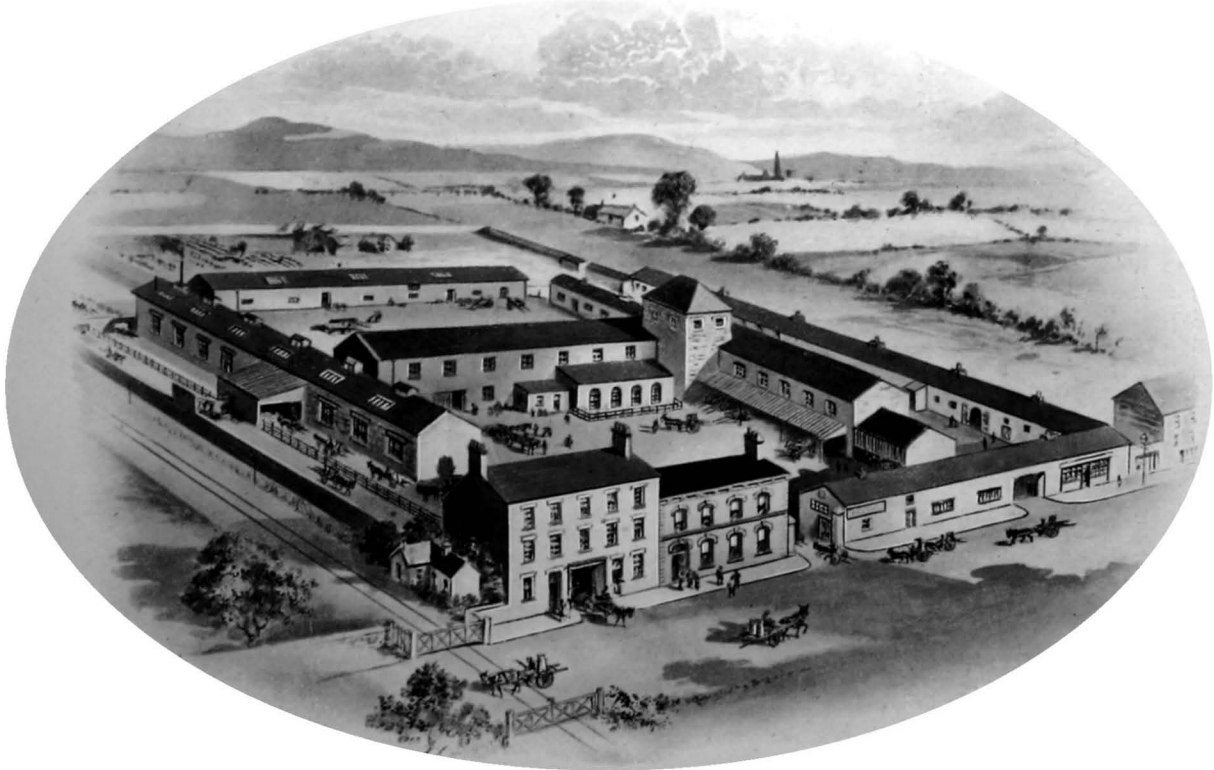


ARMAGH DEPOT: DOBBIN STREET.

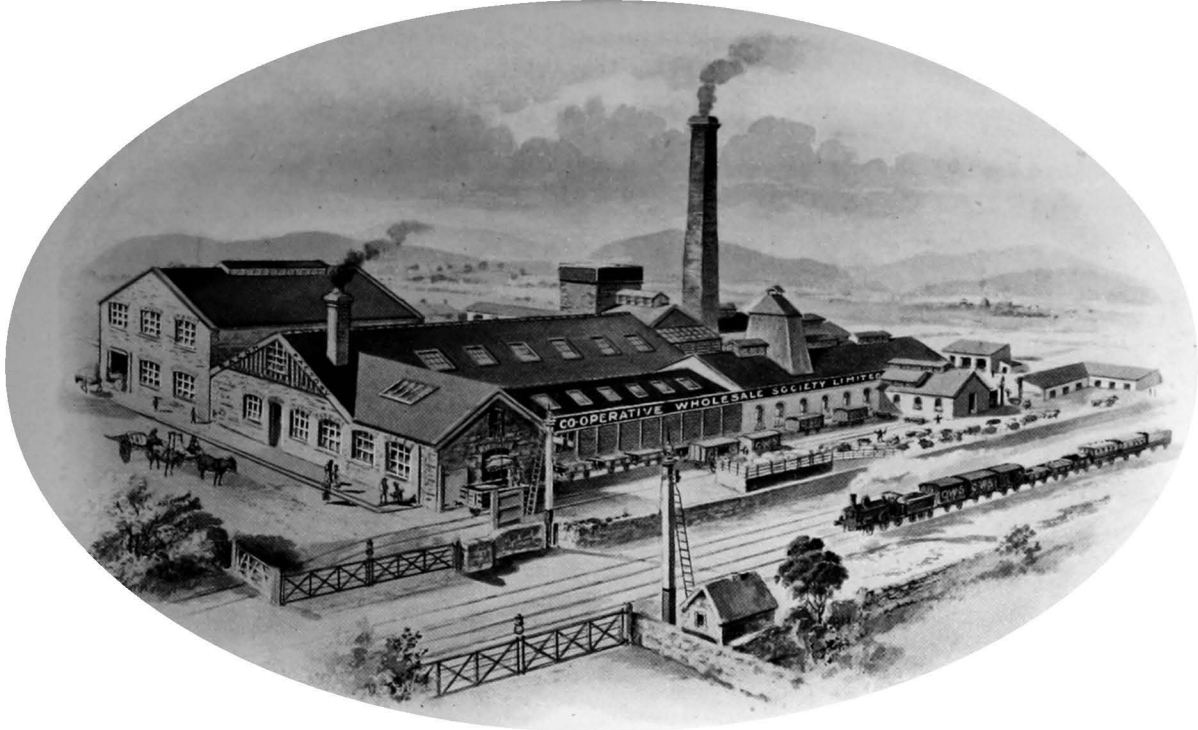
pickle. Twenty egg collecting stations over the North and West of Ireland are maintained in connection with these depôts. Fruit is also supplied to England in its season from Armagh.

Adjoining the Tralee Depôt there is to be found the C.W.S. Tralee Bacon Factory. Equipped originally to handle about 500 pigs weekly, in 1907 the factory required extensions enabling it to deal with 1,000 pigs every week. The meat is cured and eventually sent out to meet the different requirements of Northern, Southern, and Western England. Lard and sausages also are supplied from Tralee. Altogether, the value of the C.W.S. imports from Ireland reached in 1913 the sum of £482,949.

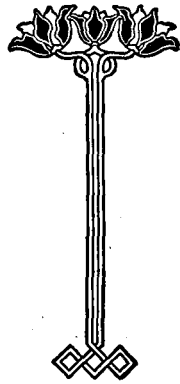




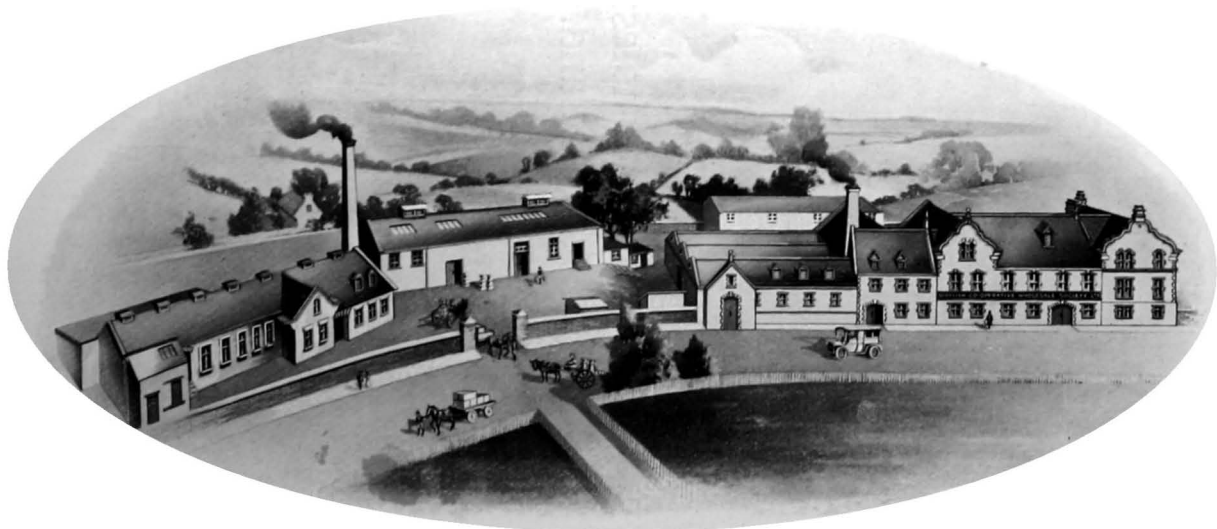
TRALEE EGG AND BUTTER DEPOT; PEMBROKE STREET.



TRALEE BACON FACTORY: ROCK STREET.



**Scottish Co-operative Wholesale
Society Limited in Ireland.**



ENNISKILLEN DEPOT.

Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society Limited in Ireland.

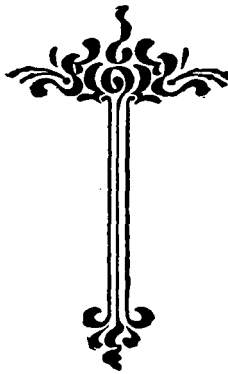
THE Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society Limited commenced business in 1868. The Society is a federation of 268 retail Co-operative Societies. The trade of the Society for the first complete year of its existence amounted to £81,094; the trade for the forty-fifth year (1913) amounted to £8,964,033.

Besides being distributors, the Society also produces on an extensive scale. The value of the goods produced at the various factories for the year 1913 amounted to £2,681,246. 11s.

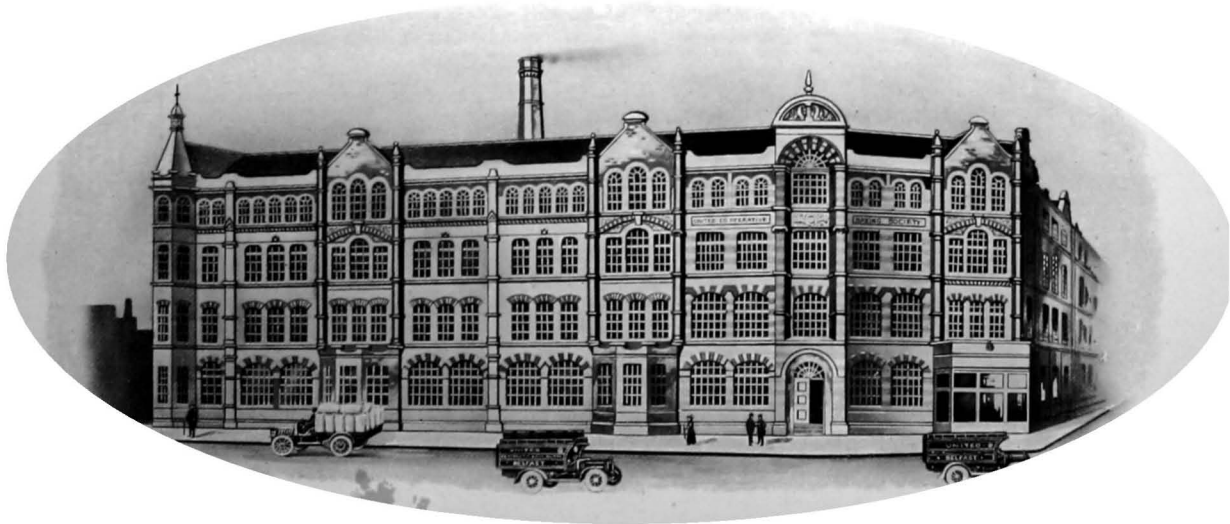
Of the 268 Society-members eight of these Societies are in the North of Ireland, and the trade for last year done with these eight Societies amounted to £49,685. In addition, trade has been done with several Societies in Ireland who are non-members amounting to £467.

ENNISKILLEN BUYING DEPÔT.

Early in 1885, after investigations were made in various districts, a depôt was opened for the purpose of collecting Irish produce. This depôt was established in Enniskillen, which was considered the most suitable centre, having a railway connection and direct communication *via* Londonderry and Belfast with Glasgow, both of these ports having good steamship connection. The principal products collected from the district are butter, eggs, and pigs, and, in the season, fruit and fowl. There has also been established a central creamery with eight auxiliaries within a radius of a few miles from Enniskillen. Nearly £5,000 per week is paid for the foregoing produce in the vicinity, the value of transfers for butter, eggs, and pork from the start of the business amounting to £3,886,128. The value of butter transferred from the depôt for the year 1913 was £62,057; eggs, £77,000; and pork, £127,437. While for the year 1913 2,275,142 gallons of milk were dealt with at the various creameries.



**United Co-operative Baking Society
in Ireland.**



**CO-OPERATIVE BAKERY, RAVENHILL AVENUE, BELFAST, PERMANENT BUILDINGS,
OPENED APRIL 16th, 1906**

United Co-operative Baking Society in Ireland.

THE Federation of Societies known as the United Co-operative Baking Society Limited was formed in the year 1868 by eight small Societies in Glasgow and neighbourhood, none of whom had trade or capital enough to start a Bakery on its own account.

They, however, conceived the idea of combining their resources and federating for the purpose of beginning the business of baking at a centre from which each would have its wants supplied.

The plan has succeeded beyond the expectations or even the hopes of the promoters. Then, as now, people had an inadequate appreciation of the strength and power that union makes possible.

The sales for the first completed year, 1869, amounted to £5,081 13s. 6d., and a steady growth has been maintained ever since. The sales during the last completed year, 1913, amounted to £692,622 1s. 1d. So long as the Federation made plain bread only the trade was confined to Glasgow and neighbourhood, but in the early 'nineties the growth of the Co-operative movement encouraged the Directors of the United Co-operative Baking Society to lay down a Biscuit Factory and commence the baking and sale of machine-made biscuits. The biscuit trade is one of those trades where victory goes to the "big battalions," and in order to make this branch of their business profitable the Directors of the United Co-operative Baking Society had to appeal for trade over a much wider area than they had hitherto done.

In pursuance of that policy they got into communication with the Societies in the North of Ireland, and put their wares and prices before them. The Irish Societies received the overtures in a friendly way; their trade in biscuits was not large, but with what they had they loyally supported Co-operative productions, and, to emphasise their interest, in October, 1898, Lisburn and Londonderry Societies applied for and were allocated shares, the former 160 and the latter 260. Portadown followed next, applying for fifty shares in January, 1900; while a year later (1901) Belfast got its first fifty shares, and holds now (1914) 12,000 out of a total of 15,091 shares held by Irish Societies.

The business relations of the United Co-operative Baking Society with Ireland must, therefore, be said to date from about 1896. Previous to that Mr. Gerrard, the present President of the Federation, accompanied Mr. Deans (of the Scottish Section, Co-operative Union) in a propaganda tour through the North of Ireland, which had the effect of encouraging the Societies then in existence, and laying the foundation for a number of other Societies.

The intercourse with the United Co-operative Baking Society evidently gave Irish Co-operators the idea of having a Co-operative Bakery of their own. At any rate, in 1898, Mr. Duncan Mc.Culloch, the then President of the U.C.B.S. (now of the Scottish Section), was invited to visit Ireland and advise them how best to promote such a venture. Mr. Mc.Culloch accepted the invitation and took pains to formulate a scheme which he thought would meet the circumstances. This scheme he elaborated in a carefully prepared paper which he read at a conference held in the St. George's Café, Belfast, in August, 1898. Mr. James Bain (Secretary of the U.C.B.S.) was also present at the conference, and gave the meeting the benefit of his long experience in Co-operative work. Mr. Mc.Culloch's scheme was not an ambitious one, but it proved too formidable for the Societies to overtake. Not only was there the difficulty of raising the necessary capital, but owing to the distance between the Societies it was evident the cost of distribution would be excessive. What had been done in Glasgow with Societies within a radius of ten miles was not possible with Societies eighty or a hundred miles apart.

Nothing more was heard of an Irish Co-operative Bakery until the spring of 1903. Meanwhile, Belfast Society was growing and attracting some notice in the city. They were supplying the members with bread by arrangement with private bakery firms. In the spring of 1903 these private firms—for reasons best known to themselves—combined to impose terms that Belfast Society could not accept. The Society protested, but the baking firms were obdurate, and matters reached a point when Belfast Society was obliged to take one of three courses—either submit to the master bakers' terms, give up the bread trade, or get supplies elsewhere. The Society's Committee resolved to try the latter, and on a Friday night they sent over a deputation consisting of Mr. Maghie (Director) and Mr. Prentice (Manager) to interview the Directors of the U.C.B.S. in Glasgow, and arrange for a supply of bread being sent to Belfast the following Monday. When the deputation arrived on the

Saturday morning, they were told that the most of the U.C.B.S. Directors were due at a conference to be held at Dunoon in the afternoon. They immediately proceeded to Dunoon; a meeting was hurriedly convened. The deputation explained the situation in Belfast, and the Glasgow Committee, as one man, resolved they would see their Belfast brethren through, whatever the cost. Orders were given to have bread despatched on Monday, with the loan of U.C.B.S. bread carts to distribute it. This met the situation for the moment, but both Belfast and Glasgow men recognised a more permanent arrangement was necessary. A formal request from Belfast Society to open a Branch Bakery there was forwarded and supported by delegates at the June Quarterly Meeting. The proposal had the ready sympathy of the Glasgow Directors, who resolved to recommend the proposal at the Quarterly Meeting of the Federation held in September, 1903.

The delegates gave the Directors the required authority, and the project was taken up in earnest. The Glasgow Directors were in frequent consultation with Belfast Society's Committee with regard to the selection of a site and other matters, and between them very few mistakes have been made. Several sites were examined and considered before the Ravenhill Avenue ground was selected and adopted. The plans were carefully considered, and as it was important that bread should be produced without delay it was resolved to enclose four ovens and sufficient baking space with a corrugated iron building to enable a start to be made, and erect the permanent buildings round about it.

The first products from the new Bakery were sent out on the last Monday in May, 1904. It was considered a great joke in the trade to produce bread in a "Tin Bakery," but many things held up to ridicule survive, and so has this Bakery. Not only was bread produced in the "Tin Bakery," but good bread too, with which Belfast Society supplied its members, and added largely to its numbers.

The Irish correspondent of the *Co-operative News*, in his annual retrospect for 1904, said:

The Branch Bakery of the U.C.B.S. has only been in active operation since July last, and already it has secured the trade of almost all the Co-operative Societies in the North of Ireland. When one considers the excellent quality of bread produced by this Bakery such a gratifying result is only to be expected. The Bakery trade in Belfast was exceedingly well organised previous to the U.C.B.S. establishing their Branch in the city, and it was thought the Federation had rather a stiff task before it in attempting to equal, much more excel, the Belfast bread. But all doubts were set at rest after the first few deliveries from the new Bakery.

Meanwhile, the plans of the permanent buildings and the plans for the development of the business were being carried out with a steadiness of purpose that surprised friend and foe alike.

Although the trade at first was confined to Belfast district, soon all the Societies in the north found it to be their duty and their interest to join the Federation, and now Armagh, Ballymena, Coalisland, Donaghcloney, Drumaness, Dublin Industrial, Enniskillen, Inniskeel Agricultural, Larne, Lisburn, Newtownards, Portadown, and Templecrone Agricultural Societies are members.

The highest wages known in the trade are paid in the Co-operative Bakery, and, in addition, all workers share in the profits made in the Federation, the average bonus being over 1s. 6d. per £ of wages paid.

From the first day the Bakery was opened until now the trade has been continuously progressive. During the six months ending January, 1914, the average weekly baking was 893 sacks of 280lbs. each per week, and it now takes its place among the most important baking businesses in the City of Belfast, and Co-operators generally acknowledge that it has done much to build up and consolidate the movement in Ireland.



Irish Co-operative Women's Guild.

Irish Co-operative Women's Guild.

ONE of the factors which has made the successful development of distributive Co-operation in Ireland a possibility has been the growth of the Co-operative Women's Guild movement. Unlike its sister movement in Great Britain, the plant has been of recent growth in Ireland. There are various reasons to account for this. There is first the fact that the Irish distributive movement itself is of recent origin, and, second, the fact that the development of Co-operation in Irish urban districts necessarily precedes the formation of the Guilds. Nevertheless, although the Irish Guild movement cannot claim to be of long establishment, it is to the credit of the women Co-operators of Ireland that an agitation for the formation of Women's Guilds arose shortly after the commencement of the distributive movement in Ireland, especially in the North.

The honour of forming the first Co-operative Women's Guild in Ireland belongs to the city of Derry, where a flourishing Society existed in the early 'nineties. This Guild lapsed after some years, but it was afterwards re-established by Mrs. McLean, then President of the Scottish Co-operative Women's Guild. About the year 1898 what is now known as the Belfast Central Branch of the Guild was formed by Mrs. Bell, a member of the Scottish Guild Executive. The Ballymacarett Branch (Belfast) was formed shortly afterwards, and in 1900 the Lisburn and Portadown Guilds were formed by Mrs. McLean, at the request of the Irish Co-operative Conference Association. In the same year Mrs. McLean also re-established the Derry Branch, which had lapsed. A Branch in Lurgan was also established in 1900, but it only existed a short time. All these Branches were affiliated with the Scottish Co-operative Women's Guild, and were known as the Fifth Section. This state of matters existed until September, 1906, when a meeting of different representatives of the Irish Guilds was held in Belfast to consider the advisability of forming a National Guild. It was felt that the time was ripe for such a course, and the meeting accordingly decided to form a National Guild for Ireland. At this meeting an election for officers took place, the following being elected:—President, Mrs. Pook (Ballymacarett); Vice-President, Mrs. Husband (Central); Treasurer, Mrs. Duff (Lisburn); and Secretary, *pro tem*, Mrs. Mc.Cay (Derry). Mrs. Pook resigned office as President about a year after her election owing to

her removal to England, and Mrs. Duff (Lisburn) was elected President in her stead in May, 1908, Mrs. R. O'Neill (Belfast) at the same time being elected General Secretary in the place of Mrs. Mc.Cay (Derry). Up to the election of Mrs. Duff as President no annual meeting had been held, and the first annual meeting of the Irish Co-operative Women's Guild was held in Belfast in September, 1908. Under Mrs. Duff's presidency, which lasted for four years, other Branches were formed in various parts of Ireland. In 1912 Mrs. Husband was appointed President in place of Mrs. Duff, and the work of forming Branches was vigorously continued.

The last annual report of the Guild (1913) states that there are ten Branches of the Guild in existence, with a membership of 448. These Branches are as follows:—Belfast Central, Ballymacarrett (Belfast), Ormeau (Belfast), York Street (Belfast), Lisburn, Ballymena, Dublin, Rosslare Harbour (Co. Wexford), Newtownards, and Queenstown.

Last year the Guild suffered a severe loss by the emigration of Mrs. R. O'Neill, their most efficient General Secretary, to Australia. During the five years that Mrs. O'Neill filled this office she discharged her duties with marked ability, and on her resignation she was made the recipient of a valuable presentation on account of her services.

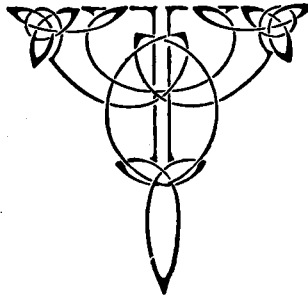
Miss Clerk (Ballymacarrett), who was elected General Secretary in 1913 in place of Mrs. O'Neill, has proved a worthy successor, and under her guiding hand it is hoped that the Guild will continue to expand until every Co-operative district in Ireland contains a Branch of the I.C.W.G.

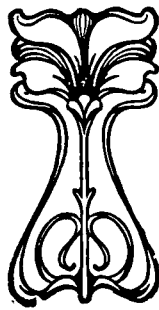
Although Irish Guildswomen devote a large amount of their activities to matters of domestic economy, and aim at the intellectual and material development of their members, their chief object is the advancement of the principles of Co-operation. Consequently, their influence on the movement, especially in those districts where Societies have been established, is most marked. Some of the most flourishing Guilds in Ireland exist side by side with large and progressive Societies, and it is not unnatural to assume that Guild activity has been, and is, responsible for a large measure of the success of those Societies. There are districts in Ireland which have not yet taken advantage of the Guild movement, and it is hoped that Co-operators in these districts will realise the value of Guild work, even where the material interests of Societies are concerned, and have Branches of the Guild formed to assist them in their work.

The woman with the basket is the dominating figure in the movement. It is for her the Guild exists, and once she becomes a Guild member she becomes a loyal Co-operator, and a true-hearted supporter of goods made under proper conditions.

The object of the Irish Guild, in the words of the report of 1913, is "to strive to advance the cause of Co-operation through the agency of the Guild movement, and attain to a higher standard of efficiency, so that we may be the better equipped to work out in actual practice the aims and purposes of Co-operation."

W.G.K.





Dublin Co-operative Women's Guild.

Dublin Co-operative Women's Guild.

NO matter where the Co-operative plant takes root its growth is slow, and some considerable time must elapse before the beauties of its flowers and fruits are fully appreciated. The practical or business side of the movement may be said to bring forth the fruits, while the educational or ideal side may be classed as the flowers. The Women's Guild, in more than one sense, belongs to the latter, and, like the practical side of the movement in Dublin, has been of slow growth. It was in 1911, the sixth year of the Industrial Society's existence, that signs were first evident of the need of a Branch of the Guild, but, strange to say, the first step towards its formation came from the outside. The sad ending of the Rathmines Society did not kill the ardour of all connected with it. Many of the Rathmines members joined the Industrial Society, amongst them Mrs. Dack, the President of the Rathmines Branch of the Guild. Despite the distance from her home this lady proceeded to work up sufficient enthusiasm amongst some Industrial members whose acquaintance she made at a quarterly meeting of the Society, and invited them to tea in a city restaurant. She formed a working Committee a week or two before leaving for Canada, and had the satisfaction of knowing that at any rate if she did not remain in the movement she had done one woman's work in the cause she had at heart.

The nucleus thus formed got to work with Mrs. Murray—still an enthusiast—as President, and Mrs. Mc.Nulty as Vice-President, the present Secretary (Mrs. Mc.Guire) having been appointed at the first meeting. The peculiar local circumstances in Dublin have been a tremendous drawback. The scattered nature of the membership prevents anything like a large number meeting together with any degree of frequency. Somehow the idea has not caught on in the same way as it does elsewhere. There are many members of the Society who have Guild experience but who are slow to come forward. The few active members have all to travel a considerable distance to the meetings.

Notwithstanding the difficulties, some very good work has been accomplished in the shape of lessons in crocheting, ribbon work, &c.,

whilst many pleasant winter evenings have been devoted to socials and charity work. A few members and friends have read papers on different Co-operative subjects, and the discussions proved very interesting and educational. That there is a bright future for Guild work in this city there can be no doubt, but so far the Guild work as known across the Channel has yet to be done. The absence of members who have sufficient leisure and enthusiasm to carry on the work has left the Guild in the hands of others whose home responsibility is a serious drawback. What the Dublin Industrial Branch has failed to accomplish in its past obscurity may surely be realised under the light of a great and successful Congress.

E.Mc.G.



The United Irishwomen.

The United Irishwomen.

IT is not an easy task to compress an account of the work of the United Irishwomen into the short space at our disposal, for though the Society is comparatively young, having been founded in 1910, its activities are many and widespread.

“The main object of the Society of United Irishwomen,” to quote from their official leaflet, “is the improvement of the social and industrial conditions of rural life in Ireland. . . . They aim at uniting the women of Ireland without regard to class, politics, or religion in seeking the general good of the community.” It will readily be seen that an association which attempts to carry out such a policy as this must be at once extraordinarily well organised and very elastic in its methods. As to its organisation, the Society of United Irishwomen consists of branches and individual members, and is governed by an Executive Committee composed of representatives of both. There are also a number of Sub-Committees for dealing with special departments of the work, and these supply expert information to Branch Committees on such subjects as rural milk supply, district nursing, village halls and libraries, village industries, &c.

The initial work of the Society in country districts is carried on by a staff of trained organisers and instructresses. The organisers travel about from place to place, hold meetings to explain the aims of the United Irishwomen, help the country people to overcome the technical difficulties of forming a Branch, and when the Branch is formed see that everything is started on a really businesslike basis.

When a Branch is in working order, and has decided on the kind of help most needed by the neighbourhood, the members may apply to the Central Committee for the services of an instructress, who then takes up her residence in the district for some months. If possible, the Branch supplies a cottage for the instructress, who is thus enabled to live under the same conditions as the people whom she is to teach, and who can show them by practical demonstration what improvements may be effected with the simplest means. She

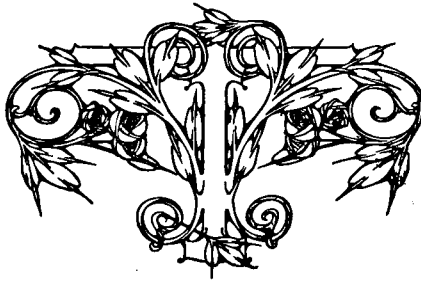
holds classes in cookery, dressmaking, laundry, hygiene, and gardening, usually teaching the latter subject by means of demonstration plots. It has been found that in this way the instructress's cottage becomes a centre of interest and a model for the neighbourhood.

There are now forty-eight United Irishwomen Branches in existence, each of which aims at being a centre of beneficent activity, the elastic rules of the Society encouraging each to take up the work for which its members are best fitted. Thus several Branches have established milk depôts in rural districts where the supply of milk has hitherto been deficient, and where the children have consequently suffered in health. Others, by means of concerts and other entertainments, have raised funds to defray the cost of training a woman as maternity district nurse under a scheme formulated and sanctioned by the Central Committee. Some have organised horticultural shows in order to encourage the countrywomen to develop their resources and to save or make money by the arts of gardening, poultry and bee keeping, butter making, &c. A girls' club, village halls, and libraries have been started by other Branches, and several have adopted the United Irishwomen's scheme by which cocoa luncheons may be supplied to school children on a self-supporting basis and yet at a very small cost. Most of the Branches do much to brighten the social life of their respective districts by organising concerts, plays, dances, and lectures, and by promoting healthy intercourse among the people.

There are also three Associate Branches—Chicago, Montreal, and London. The Chicago and Montreal Branches have given valuable support to the work of the Society both by subscribing to its funds and by making its aims better known. Most encouraging reports have been received this year from these two Branches. Their membership is increasing rapidly, and the keenest interest has been shown in the movement.

The London Branch has done sterling work in finding a market for United Irishwomen's goods, and in putting Irish workers in direct communication with English buyers. Not the least valuable result of the labours of this Branch is the raising of the general standard of excellence in the work sent up for sale, as they wisely insist that Ireland shall be represented only by goods of the highest quality.

The Society has already its official organ in "The Irishwoman" (monthly, price 1d.), which keeps the Branches in touch with the general work of the Society, and supplies the members with amusing fiction as well as practical advice on various subjects of interest to women.





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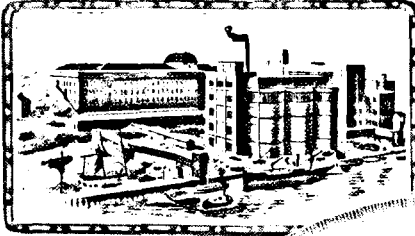
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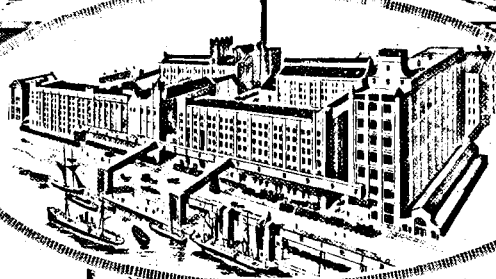
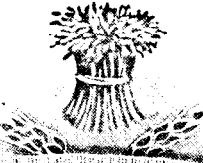
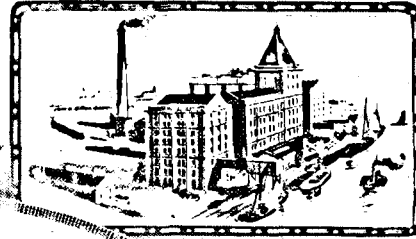
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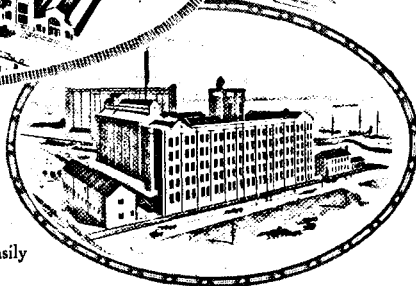
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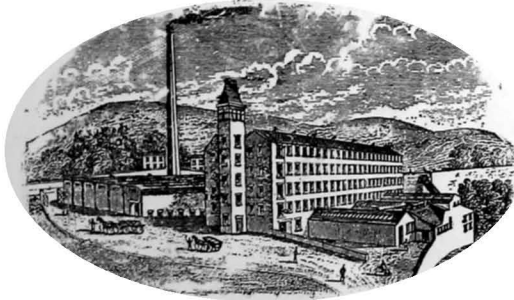
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Makers of
**Oxford Shirtings, Flannelettes,
Sateens, Dressmakers' Linings,
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Also of Grey Cloths.**

Warehouse and Office :

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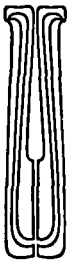
National, Furnley, 138.

National, Manchester, 3010 City.

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Societies are requested to give these Goods a Trial.

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**HIGH-CLASS GARMENTS
== MAKE SMART ==
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Minute attention is paid to every detail
in the manufacture of all Bespoke and
Ready-made Goods, and Members may
place their orders at the Stores with the
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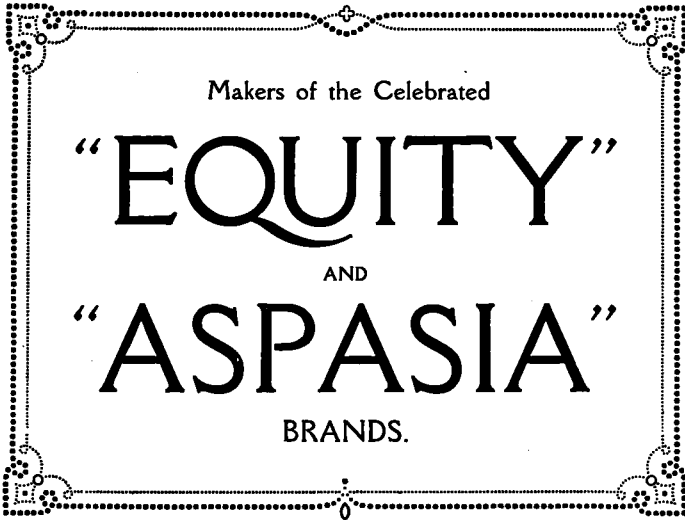
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LABOUR CO-PARTNERSHIP CONDITIONS.

28, MINORIES, LONDON, E.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

**Leicester Co-operative
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LIMITED.**



**All that is Best and Daintiest in
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SEE OUR EXHIBIT AND JUDGE FOR YOURSELF.

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Telephone: No. 933. SHARE CAPITAL INVITED.

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THE ORGAN OF THE MOVEMENT IN SCOTLAND.

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Co-operative News from all parts of the country.
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For Clothing of Quality
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LADIES' TAILOR-MADE COSTUMES,
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HOURS OF LABOUR, 48 PER WORKING WEEK.

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Limited.

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Silver-Plated Goods, &c.**

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To Members of Co-operative Societies.

When purchasing Cutlery at your Stores, insist on having those manufactured by the original Sheffield Cutlery Co-operative Society Limited. **Trade Mark, UNITY.** Established 1873. All Goods manufactured from the best materials, and will be exchanged if not perfect. None genuine unless marked **UNITY.**

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Manufacturers of all kinds of

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Co-operators and Trade Unionists, ask at your Stores for

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All the workers are members of the Hosiery Union.



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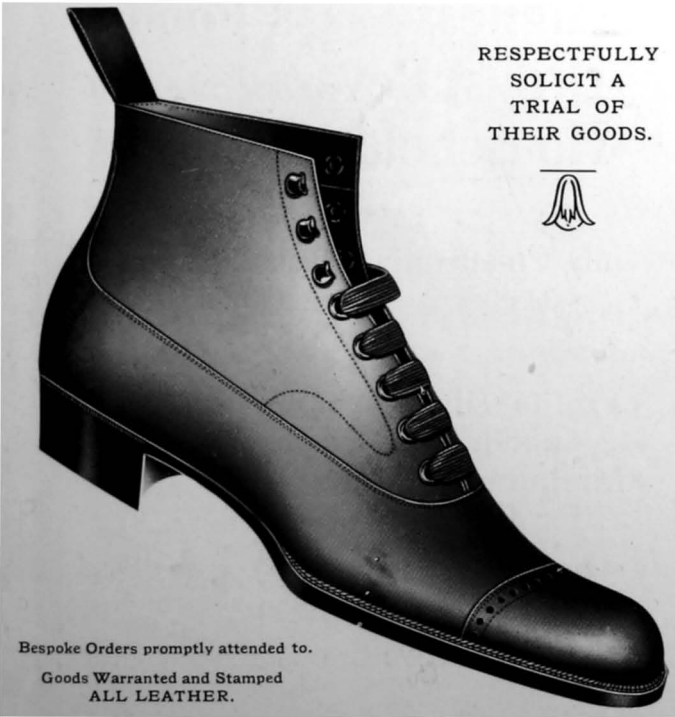
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CO-OPERATIVE BOOT AND SHOE MANUFACTURING SOCIETY LTD.



Manufacturers of MEN'S, YOUTHS', and BOYS'
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TRIAL OF
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Bespoke Orders promptly attended to.

Goods Warranted and Stamped
ALL LEATHER.

Only Makers of the Celebrated "Holyoake" Brand.



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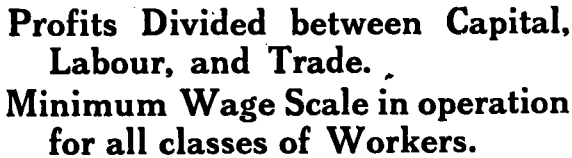
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Specialists in the Manufacture of
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**Profits Divided between Capital,
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**Minimum Wage Scale in operation
for all classes of Workers.**

Ask for Bee Hive Goods at your Store.

Bee Hive Works, Droylsden

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INSIST ON HAVING THE PRODUCTIONS OF

The "Ideal"

CLOTHIERS

LIMITED

WELLINGBOROUGH

AND SO ENSURE THAT YOU OBTAIN

LADIES' COSTUMES,

GENTLEMEN'S & BOYS'

CLOTHING, HATS and CAPS

Made under Ideal Co-partnership Principles.

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MINIMUM WAGE

PAID IN EACH DEPT. TO ALL WORKERS.

48 HOURS per WORKING WEEK.

ASK FOR THESE GOODS AT YOUR STORES.

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LEICESTER
"ANCHOR"
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ASFORDBY STREET, NEW EVINGTON, LEICESTER.

For LADIES', GENTS', and BOYS' SMART UP-TO-DATE

FOOTWEAR
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(REGISTERED).

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:: BOOK MANUFACTURERS, ::
CARDBOARD BOX MAKERS, &c.



**WE SPECIALISE IN CO-OPERATIVE
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WE ARE RIGHT IN PRICE, QUALITY,
AND STYLE.**

OFFICES:

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Printing Works - - - Short Street.

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LIMITED.

Co-operation grows wonderfully well on its distributive side.
Progress is recorded by most Co-operative Stores.
Figures demonstrate the increasing popularity of the Stores.

Co-operators understand that store-keeping is but the beginning of Co-operation.

Primarily it seeks an improved social and industrial order.
Foremost in which stands the claims of Labour to participate in results.

Co-partnership is the basic principle of true Co-operative production.
Participation raises the worker from wage-earner to co-partner.
From wage-earner to co-partner is Labour's next and soundest move.

Co-operative Productive Societies actually make the worker a partner.
Producers sit on directorate, thus ensuring industrial peace.
Free co-operation of producers seeks the common interest of worker, shareholder, and customer.

Capitalism controlling industry means the exploitation of the worker.
Participation in industry means the emancipation of the worker.
Forms and develops personal responsibility in the worker.

Co-partnership Societies are federated in the C.P.F.
Profits made by them are shared with workers and customers.
Fine, smart, reliable workmanship at right prices characterise their products.

C.P.F. enables Stores to have goods from all federated societies
Posted through one single joint trade account in the C.P.F.
Focuses and centralises Co-operative production within the movement.

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Persons seeking variety, selection, and reasonableness in prices should see C.P.F. goods.

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For particulars of C.P.F. Goods write to the Office:

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The ORIGINAL MANUFACTURERS of
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For the CO-OPERATIVE MOVEMENT were the

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Established 16 years, each year showing a good increase
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Conditions of labour are the best. Our aim is to produce a
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Samples forwarded free to any Society wishing to compare.

**ROCHDALE
Equitable Pioneers' Society Ltd.**

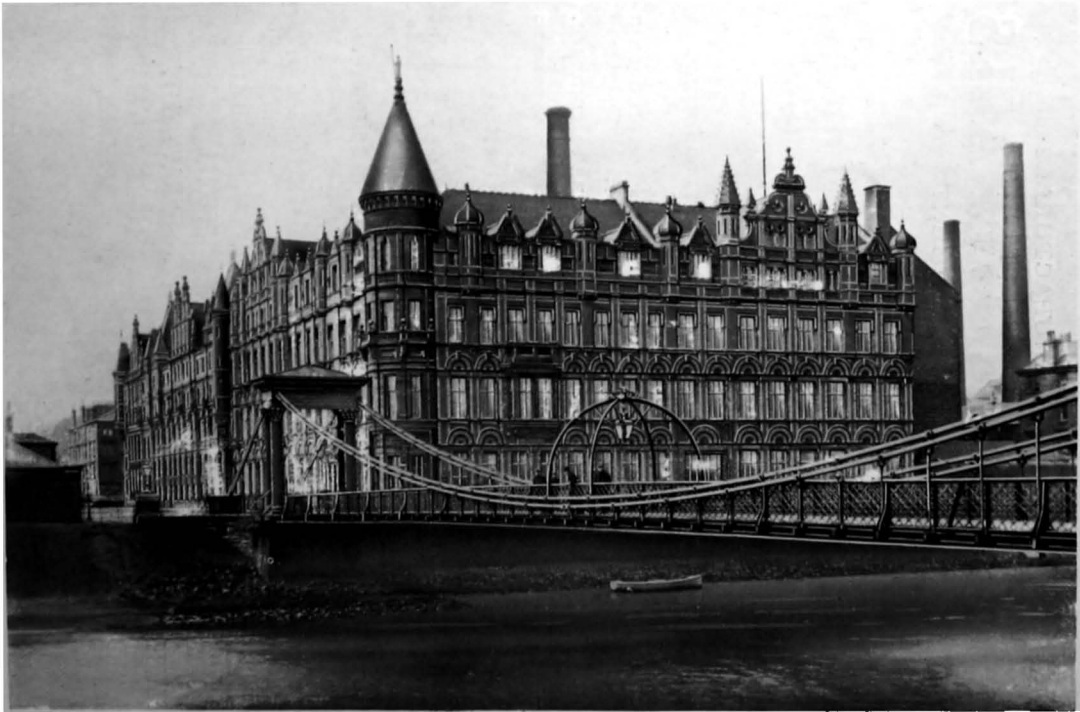
The Original Co-operative Tobacco Manufacturers.

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ALL DESCRIPTIONS
OF PLAIN AND
FANCY TOBACCOS
AND CIGARS.



⊙
Specialities:
SPECIAL MIXTURE,
"NAVY CUT,"
LIGHT AND DARK
FLAKES.

⊙
Ask for these Tobaccos at your Stores, and Support
Co-operative Productions.



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ADVERTISEMENTS.

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**Four Thousand Six Hundred (4,600) 280lbs. Sacks
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Joint Capital	- - - -	£482,000
Yearly Sales	- - - -	£635,800
Average Yearly Profit		£54,000

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LIBERAL DISCOUNT TO RETAIL SOCIETIES.**

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Groceries, Pure Food, Pure Milk, not forgetting Coal.

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Our Purchases
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cent of our Total
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Our Purchases
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of our Total Pur-
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Our Purchases
from Co-operative
Sources are 70 per
cent of our Total
Purchases.

**BELFAST
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20-30, YORK STREET.

Our Purchases
from Irish Sources
are 60 per cent
of our Total Pur-
chases.

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ASK AT YOUR STORES FOR

**“WIMINSGILD”
FOOTWEAR**

MADE UNDER GOOD CONDITIONS

BY THE

**GLENFIELD “PROGRESS” Co-operative
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“AIREDALE”

Dress Goods, Linings,
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MANUFACTURED BY THE

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The
“**Co-operative News**”

is the

Official Organ

of the


Co-operative Movement.



That is why it should have the whole-hearted support of every Co-operator. An increased circulation for the “Co-operative News” means greater security for the movement against outside attacks. For the benefit of Co-operators in Ireland a speciality is made of **Irish Notes and News every week.**

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Health Salts.
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Self-Raising Flour.
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The New Co-op. Bun Flour.



Malt and Hops.
Marrowfat Peas.
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**CO-OPERATIVE
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Limited,

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Telegrams, "104x, Plymouth."

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BRAND of

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Established 1898.

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Manufacturers of all kinds of CUTLERY, DINNER and TEA KNIVES,
SPOONS & FORKS, SCISSORS, RAZORS, PEN & POCKET KNIVES,
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A variety of SILVER-PLATED GOODS and PRESENTATION CASES.

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OUR BRANDS OF FLOURS—

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GUARANTEED PURE AND OF NATURAL COLOUR.

No artificial means used during the process of manufacture to improve the colour or increase the percentage of phosphates.

OUR WHOLE WHEAT MEAL

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This Society is founded on the true principles of Co-operative Production. Only Societies are Shareholders. After liberal depreciation of Property, Machinery, and Fixtures, and paying Five per cent per annum Interest on Share Capital, and Four per cent per annum on Loan Capital, the Profits remaining are appropriated according to Rule to Purchasers and Employees.

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WHEN you are in difficulties YOU consult a Lawyer ;

WHEN you are ordering Flour YOU OUGHT to consult
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Why? Because

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They pay Standard Rate of Wages.

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Motor Body Builders. All Makes of Cars supplied.

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