

Irish International Exhibition.

By J. J. O'Flaherty.

The Irish International Exhibition, which was inaugurated by His Excellency the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, the Earl of Aberdeen, on the 4th of May last, is causing immense interest in the United Kingdom, and recognised by Irishmen as an important element of education, that is destined to benefit the whole country.

Up to the time of writing over 300,000 people, principally residents of the Green Isle, have visited the Big Fair and it is safe to say that this number would have been more than doubled only for the vagaries of the atmospheric conditions that have delayed thousands from across the Channel from coming to Dublin to inspect the mammoth exhibit. Besides the United Kingdom and its colonies, all European countries as far as Japan, are represented, while the home industries of Ireland, one of the principal features, are exhibited in a special section that is the centre of great interest.

His Majesty King Edward VII, accompanied by His Royal Consort Queen Alexandra, together with their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales and His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught, with their retinues, will come to Ireland on July 10th to visit the Exhibition. The king, it is reported, had heard such complimentary reports of the Canadian section, that he is determined to see it, and it is to the credit of Canada that the Canadian pavilion contains the most interesting exhibit of the whole show.

The principal features of the Exhibition are strikingly effective in character. There are two main entrances, one of which is at Ballsbridge and consists of a magnificent facade and flight of steps leading into the vestibule or entrance hall, which is embellished with views of Irish scenery; the other is at Morehampton Road, Donnybrook, and is of similar design but less imposing dimensions. The Grand Central Palace, with its towering dome, occupies the centre of the park and is built in the style of architecture known as the Italian Renaissance, recalling in its salient features many characteristics of the Florentine school.

Radiating from it are four immense rectangular wings devoted to exhibits of manufactured products, in which Irish firms make a creditable display, and in the centre under the dome are a bandstand and a great circular promenade capable of accommodating several thousand persons when weather conditions in the open may be unfavorable. The floor space is equal to 24 acres.

The Palace of Industries with its beautiful facade and colonnade has a floor area of 72,000 square feet, and like the Grand Central Palace is largely occupied by manufacturers, but Italian and Japanese exhibitors have important sections in this building, containing a collection of exhibits of a most artistic and attractive description. New Zealand occupies the central section with a splendid representation of the products of the colony.

The Palace of Mechanical Arts is a huge building of 900 feet in length and 100 feet in width, or 90,000 feet superficial, divided into four sections, viz: transportation, engineering, machinery in motion and generating plant for power and lighting of the exhibition. This will be to many visitors the most interesting department of the exhibition. The great railway and steamship companies are making a superb display, while the up-to-date installation of generating plant and electrical appliances and various manufacturing processes on view will be sure to command attention.

The Palace of Fine Arts is a building of great beauty but severe in style and it accommodates in its area of 33,000 square feet a number of sections, viz: the Irish art collection

brought together by the labour of the Dublin committee, the British and foreign collections of pictures, statuary and tapestries organised by the London committee of distinguished art connoisseurs who have so generously given their services for the purpose. This collection in extent and importance surpasses anything hitherto accomplished outside of London. The Irish historical collection of objects of interest which is the result of the successful efforts of an active local committee; and a photographic section under the auspices of the Photographic Society of Ireland. There are numerous important buildings besides, including the group especially devoted to Irish home and cottage industries.

The Canadian pavilion erected by the Irish home and cottage industries, scale in which the products of the Dominion are so arranged as to constitute one of the greatest attractions of the exhibition. The French pavilion erected under the sanction of the French government for the exhibition of French products and presenting a delightful example of what can be done by those past masters in the art of exposition of arts and manufactures.

There is also a very fine pavilion for the display of the numerous industries connected with gas, and Irish dairy, working bakeries, and many handsome kiosks for various purposes.

The dining rooms, restaurants and tea rooms are numerous, spacious and luxuriously appointed. In the splendid "Palace" restaurant, the service is equal in all respects to that of London's best hotels and restaurants.

There is a concert hall of noble proportions to seat two thousand persons, besides orchestra. A new specially built organ has been provided and a programme of musical entertainments of exceptional merit and attractiveness are constantly in vogue.

A very large sum of money has been spent in altering the levels of the park and laying out the grounds on a plan which combines beauty and charming variety. An extensive lake with picturesque bridges and islands has been constructed, and a water chute, rivers of Ireland, switchback railway, helter-skelter, light house, shooting galleries and Somali village are some of the numerous side shows which afford amusement to visitors. There are continuous band performances daily, and the best known and most popular military and orchestral bands have been engaged in succession for the entire season.

The Canadian section of the Irish International Exhibition, is evidently the most popular drawing card, judging by the way people flock to the pavilion before proceeding elsewhere. Everywhere you go in Dublin you hear the Canadian exhibit eulogized, which no doubt accounts for the rush made by visitors to see it, the very moment they enter the spacious grounds.

The pavilion is located in close proximity to Morehampton Road entrance and catches the visitor's eye as they pass through the turnstile. The building is the highest on the grounds, towering above all others in majesty of size, and no matter how the eye revolves it becomes centred on the word "Canada", emblazoned on its four sides, while the flag of the Dominion unmistakably denotes the superb colony of the British Empire.

As you approach the building through a labyrinth of garden plots, beautifully arranged in plants and shrubbery of every description, you read the letters "Irish Canadian Entente Cordiale" standing out in bold relief on the facade.

The building is constructed on the line of Elizabethan architecture, half timbered and though somewhat plain, most pleasing in artistic design.

As you ascend the wide staircase and enter the pavilion, you are amazed

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