

## THE WORK OF DEVELOPING IRISH INDUSTRIES.

(Father Finlay in the Messenger).

It took a year of weary effort to induce a body of farmers to establish the first co-operative society in Ireland. At last, after fifty meetings held in school houses in private houses or on the road side, a small group of farmers in County Limerick consented to give the methods of industrial combination a trial. The first application of co-operation was made to the dairy industry—the most important branch of the farmer's business in the southwestern counties. A society was formed, a creamery built, the best available machinery set up, and the service of a skilled manager secured. The results surprised the most sanguine of the innovators. Hitherto the butter of the farmer had been manufactured by his wife or daughter, with much expenditure of his own or son's labors in the "churning" process; it took from three to four gallons of milk to make a pound of butter and the pound of butter thus made sold for sevenpence or eightpence. Under the new conditions the labor of the farmer and his family was limited to sending his milk to the creamery; there the steam-driven machines made a pound of butter from two-and-a-half gallons of milk; and this pound of butter sold for elevenpence or a shilling. But there was something more and something better than the saving of labor and the money gain. The farmer had now to watch the processes of a highly technical manufacture, to examine accounts, to follow from day to day the price lists of the English markets, to study the cost and the conditions of transport by sea and land. The rural creamery became a school as well as a factory. Its owners began to widen their view of the actual world, to make a larger acquaintance with nature and with life, to develop the qualities which mark the man of business as distinguished from the mere peasant. The promoters of the new movement regarded this as among the most important effects of their work; they had looked for it, and it had come.

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The success of the first creamery facilitated the establishment of others. An object lesson is more effective than the exposition of a theory. The successful creamery owned and managed by a body of farmers furnished the object lesson. When it had been at work for a year and its benefits had been demonstrated to the observant critics who watched its operations closely, it became possible to establish sixteen new societies. Soon the co-operative creamery became a family feature of the Limerick and Tipperary villages, and the panting of a steam engine and the whirr of revolving machinery lost their novelty for the inhabitants. Then the movement spread northwards to the borders of Ulster. Looking at the trade returns of the movement for the year 1902, I find that this society manufactured \$128,000 worth of butter during the twelve months.

Having effected an entrance into Ulster, the co-operative creameries multiplied and prospered there. At present they are established in every county in Ireland, in the districts outside the great grazing tracts given over to the raising of beef. Over three hundred of them are at work, with a collective membership of about fifty thousand farmers and a trade turnover (for 1902) of five and one half million dollars.

At an early stage of this development of the co-operative movement an important step was taken for securing access to the markets. A central agency for the sale of butter was formed by the societies. It was itself a co-operative society, but the members were societies, not individuals. Its functions were to keep in touch with the wholesale buyers, and to direct the consignments of the local societies to the markets where prices were the highest. With the establishment of the agency the middleman's control of the Irish butter market came to an end.

The next form of co-operation which the promoters of the new movement took up was the Agricultural Society—a combination for the joint purpose of agricultural requirements, seeds, manures and farm implements. Hitherto the small farmer had bought for himself in the local stores at high retail prices, and without any guarantee of quality in his purchases. By combining the orders of the members of a society, and then further combining the orders of a number of societies, the representatives of the farmers were enabled to deal directly with the manufacturers, and to secure the favorable terms which, relieved of the expense of advertising, of travelling agents and of the collection of small debts, they were enabled to give. The first experiment in this direction was made by a group of societies in North Kilkenny. Here the farmers had been accustomed to buy their manures from small local dealers, at \$27 a ton, without any guarantee of quality.

Bulking their orders they bargained with a manufacturing firm for two thousand tons. Samples of the consignment were tested by an analyst before delivery was accepted. The manure was delivered to the societies free of railway charge at \$12 a ton; they saved \$30,000 on the transaction thus carried out. Here again a central agency—the Irish Co-operative Wholesale Society—was established, which worked in the same satisfactory way as the butter agency. Its purchase for the year 1902 amounted to \$270,000.

Societies for minor farm industries, such as poultry raising, bee keeping and fruit growing were also established, and these, besides their money results have had an important educational effect upon the members of the farmer's families.

The work of the apostles of co-operation lay chiefly among the men of small means. These men were sadly hampered in their industry by want of capital. To meet this difficulty Co-operative Banks, Village Credit Societies on the Raiffeisen principle were set up amongst them. We have in Ireland close on to two hundred of these village banks. Hitherto they have not had a single bad debt to write off, nor is it anticipated that they will have any experience of the kind in the future.

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The societies I have so far described have done much to improve the farmer's industry, and to make his use of the land more productive. But, helpful as they are, they cannot solve the problem of how to live for the small farmer. As I have mentioned earlier, 200,000 of the farmers of Ireland occupy holdings, which, no matter how cultivated, cannot yield a competence to the occupier and his family. If his sons and daughters are not to emigrate some industry other than agriculture must be provided by which they can supplement the family resources. The leaders of the new movement are keenly alive to this necessity, and they have done what they could to meet it. Societies for the carrying on of non-agricultural rural industries have been established, and where they have been developed on a sufficient scale the effect upon emigration has become promptly evident. Let me give an example. Two years ago I was invited by a priest in the parish of Drmore, County Tyrone, to establish a society for lace-making among the girls of his parish. On a Sunday evening in September I met the parishioners, after evening devotions, in an open space outside the church. I explained to them the constitution of a co-operative society, undertook, if they would form a society, to carry their application for teachers to the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction, and to supply them with designs and provide a market for their products through a lace agency with which I was connected. At the close of the meeting 200 girls enrolled themselves as shareholders in the new society. In a month they were at work under skilful teachers. Three months later they sent their first consignment of lace to the agency. Its quality was so good that the buyers found it fit for the London and

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Paris markets, and sent them a cheque for \$400. By the end of the year they had sold lace to the value of \$5,000; this year their work will have brought them about \$15,000. Some months since I was invited by this society to attend a festivity which celebrated the opening of a new workroom provided by the girls themselves, and capable of accommodating 200 workers. They did me the honor of presenting me with an illuminated address—gratifying no doubt as a personal compliment, but infinitely more gratifying for one statement which it contained—this to wit: that since the foundation of the society not one girl had emigrated from the parish. Previously the parish had furnished a contingent of from forty to fifty girls to the bands of emigrants which left the district about Easter time.

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The lace-making industry has saved many an Irish farmer's home from dismemberment. Last year the agency to which I have alluded above, disposed of \$170,000 worth of Irish lace to the milliners and dressmakers of New York, London and Paris. The fine ladies who wear these exquisite fabrics are not, perhaps, aware that they are largely made in cottage homes, by fingers which in the earlier hours of the day handle a spade or a hoe and address themselves to this delicate artistic task only when the field labor of the day is over.

The market for Irish lace is limited, and if it were not it could not employ the willing hands of the farmer's sons. For them, and for the girls who are still without remunerative occupation, some system of factory industry must be provided. The rural factory is the pressing need of the moment in Ireland. We do not want the city factory, we do not desire to break up the healthy home life of the people on the land, and mass them in city slums. The rural factory system of the eastern Swiss cantons, of Vorarlberg and southern Bavaria furnish the models which thinking Irish economists, for whom wealth means the welfare of the people, would gladly imitate. In this direction we must apply whatever resources the future may bring us.

Young Wife (sobbing)—I will not keep still! Before we were married you said I had a charming flow of language.

Young Husband—And so you have dear. It not only flows, but dashes, leaps, bounds, roars, goes over cataracts and mill sluices, and there is an occasional waterspout as well.

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### IMMORAL, PROFANE AND DISHONEST.

A youth cannot be too particular in the choice of his friends, for they will inevitably influence his life. He cannot afford to sully his soul by lending ear to an immoral associate, nor defile his innocence by forming a friendship with one who is profane. Oaths and immoralities will at first shock every fibre of a sensitive nature, but if continually listened to, the horror grows less, until at last there may not be a twinge of conscience at any of the things which before set every nerve vibrating with disgust and displeasure.

The dishonest boy is another associate to be shunned. He does not scruple at what he calls "little things," by which term he means those methods whereby he can take advantage of another without being discovered. He does not take into consideration that in time these "little things" grow into greater and may finally shut him behind prison bars.—Catholic Citizen.

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## Canadian Pacific TIME TABLE

|   | Lv.   | Ar.   |
|---|-------|-------|
| Montreal, Toronto, New York and east, via all rail, daily   | 15 00 | 12 30 |
| Montreal, Toronto, New York and east, via lake and rail, Mon., Thurs., Saturday   | 15 00 | 12 30 |
| Tuesday, Friday, Sunday   |       |       |
| Rat Portage and intermediate points, daily except Sunday  | 8 00  | 18 30 |
| Lac du Bonnet and intermediate points, Wed. only  | 7 00  | 19 30 |
| Portage la Prairie, Gladstone, Neepawa, Minnedosa, Shoal Lake, Yorkton and intermediate points, daily except Sunday                             | 7 30  | 20 40 |
| Rapid City and Rapid City Junction, daily ex. Sunday  | 7 30  | 20 40 |
| Pettapiece, Miniota and intermediate points, daily except Sunday  | 7 30  | 20 40 |
| Portage la Prairie, Brandon, Moosomin, Virden, Regina, Moose Jaw and intermediate points, daily except Sunday                                   | 7 30  | 20 40 |
| Morden, Deloraine and intermediate points, daily except Sunday  | 8 25  | 14 00 |
| Glenboro, Souris and intermediate points, daily except Sunday   | 13 35 | 12 15 |
| Pipestone, Reston, Arcola, and intermediate points, Mon., Wed., Friday  | 7 30  |       |
| Tues., Thurs., Saturday   | 20 40 |       |
| Napinka and intermediate points, Tues., Thurs., Sat. Mon., Wed., Friday   | 8 25  | 14 00 |
| Brandon Local, daily except Sunday  | 16 30 | 12 20 |
| Portage la Prairie, Brandon, Calgary, Lethbridge, Macleod, Prince Albert, Edmonton and all points on coast and in East and West Kootenay, daily | 18 05 | 8 50  |
| Stonewall branch, daily except Sunday   | 16 50 | 10 20 |
| Winnipeg Beach, daily except Sunday   | 16 10 | 10 00 |
| St. Paul Express, Gretna, St. Paul, Chicago, daily  | 13 55 | 13 40 |
| Emerson branch, daily except Sunday   | 15 45 | 10 45 |

F. P. BRADY,  
Asst. Gen. Supt., Winnipeg  
C. E. McPHERSON,  
Gen. Pass. Agt., Winnipeg

## Canadian Northern TIME TABLE

| Leave Winnipeg    | STATIONS  | Arrive Winnipeg   |
|-------------------|---|-------------------|
|                   | <b>EAST</b>   |                   |
| Daily ex. Sun.    | St. Boniface, Ste. Anne, Steinbach, Bedford, Sprague, Warroad, Beaudette, Rainy River, Stratton, Emo, Fort Frances.   | Daily ex. Sun.    |
| 10 25             |   | 16 25             |
| Mon. Wed. Fri.    | Mine Centre, Glenorchy, Atikokan, Kishabowic, Mattawin, Kakabeka Falls, Stanley Jct., Ft. William, Port Arthur.   | Tues. Thurs. Sat. |
| 10 25             |   | 16 25             |
|                   | <b>WEST</b>   |                   |
| Mon. Wed. Fri.    | Headingley, Eli, Oakville, Portage la Prairie, Beaver, Gladstone, Plumas, Dauphin.  | Tues. Thurs. Sat. |
| 10 45             |   | 17 00             |
| Tues. Thurs. Sat. | Headingley, Eli, Oakville, Portage la Prairie, Beaver, Mayfield, Humerston, Halboro, Glendale, Neepawa, Eden, Burnie, Glen-smith, Dauphin.  | Mon. Wed. Fri.    |
| 10 45             |   | 17 00             |
| Mon. Wed. Fri.    | Sifton, Ethelbert, Minnetonka, Swan River.  | Wed. Thurs. Sat.  |
| 10 45             |   | 17 00             |
| Mon. Wed. Fri.    | Bowsman, Birch River, Novra, Mafeking, Powell, Westgate, Erwood.  | Wed. Thurs. Sat.  |
| 10 45             |   | 17 00             |
| Mon. Wed. Fri.    | Ashville, Gilbert Plains, Grand View.   | Tues. Thurs. Sat. |
| 10 45             |   | 17 00             |
| Fri. Sat.         | Fork River, Gruber, Winnipegosis.   | Sat. Tues. 17 00  |
| 10 45             |   |                   |
| Mon. Wed. Fri.    | Oak Bluff, Sperling, Homewood, Carman, Leary's and intermediate points.   | Tues. Thurs. Sat. |
| 7 00              |   | 17 50             |
| Daily ex. Sun.    | St. Norbert, St. Agathe, Morris, Myrtle, Roland, Miami, Belmont, Wawanesa, Brandon, Ninette, Minto, Elgin, Hartney and intermediate points.   | Daily ex. Sun.    |
| 8 05              |   | 18 25             |
|                   | <b>SOUTH</b>  |                   |
| Daily             | Twin City Express between Winnipeg, Minneapolis and St. Paul, 14hrs. 20min. Via Can. Nor. and Great Nor. Rys. Morris, Emerson, St. Vincent, Hallock, Warren, Crookston, Ada, Glyndon, Barnesville, Fergus Falls, Alexandria, Osake's Sauk Centre, St. Cloud, Clearwater, Monticello, Ossea, Minneapolis and St. Paul. | Daily             |
| 17 20             |   | 10 10             |
| Daily             | Minneapolis and St. Paul Express via Can. Nor. Ry. and Nor. Pac. Ry. Morris, St. Jean, Lettelier, Emerson, Pembina, Grafton, Grand Forks, Crookston, Minneapolis, St. Paul, Duluth, Superior.   | Daily             |
| 13 45             |   | 13 30             |

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