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WOMEN
YOUTHS
GIRLS

SAME
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10. "	10. "	10. "
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50. "	50. "	50. "
60. "	60. "	60. "
70. "	70. "	70. "
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WHEN WRITING TO ADVERTISERS
PLEASE MENTION THE GUIDE

THE BURDEN OF LABOR

Behold, O God of seedtime,
Thy children, how they toil!
Scattering the seed before Thee
On the altar of the soil.
Thy little birds with music
Disport of joyous wing
But we who feed the nations,
We are too tired to sing.

Behold, O God of harvest,
The burden of our days,
We gather in Thy bounty
And may not stop to praise.
Thy little birds around us
The spell of music fling,
But we who feed the nations
We are too tired to sing.

O God of those who labor
In field and mill and mine,
With whirling wheels to drive us,
Lo, we are also Thine!
Thy little birds a-litling
Come back to us each spring,
But we who feed the nations
We are too tired to sing.

—By Peter McArthur

CO-OPERATION AND THE WORKERS ON THE LAND

There are three ways in which the co-operative ideal if realized will help the Irish working class. First, it will help them in purchase. The co-operative store in town or country will ensure to the artisan or laborer that every penny of his income will be spent to the best advantage. If he becomes a member of the co-operative store, he has a vote at its meetings and can take a share in its management. What business ability they can develop may be seen by examining some of the Irish societies like the Lisburn Society or the Belfast Society. The trade of the latter is already over three hundred thousand pounds. We learn from the Belfast News-Letter Tercentenary Number that this society has now twenty-one branches. Its central establishment is being rebuilt at a cost of £50,000. It provides mutual assurance for its members. Its profits have increased from £59 in the first year of its existence to £30,000 last year, profits which were divisible among its members. It insists on all its employees being trades unionists. It does not want cheap labor. It is affiliated with the Co-operative Baking Society, whose trade is now £2,250 a week, and whose profits go to the co-operators and workers, who received last year a bonus of 7½ per cent. on the wages paid. The pride, the hope, the intelligence engendered by participation in the building up of such enterprises is of incalculable benefit to Ireland, and we look forward to a time when co-operators all over Ireland will realize their identity of interests and the workers north and south will unitedly work to bring about the co-operative commonwealth. Started by workmen, every class have become members and share in the prosperity brought about by excellent business management. Such huge enterprises are, of course, only possible in large cities, but there is no reason why the rural co-operative store should not offer the same advantages of economic purchase to farmers and laborers and all country people. With increase in numbers, with experience and better organization, there is no reason why other enterprises basing themselves on the co-operative society should not be formed. A well-managed society should be able, while charging current retail prices, to pay two shillings in the pound as dividend to its members and by leaving some portion of the dividend in the society to be used for insurance purposes members could secure old age pensions at sixty and bridge over the period of failing powers before the State contribution is paid. Nothing is impossible to men who co-operate, and the first step to help the workers in Ireland and to incorporate their activities and make the units real participants in the national being and welfare is for the farmer to push forward the organization of co-operative stores, to join them themselves and invite the laborers to join. The I.A.O.S. cannot help in this extra agricultural work, but there are other agencies which will give all the necessary advice, the Irish Agricultural Wholesale Society or the Irish Co-operative Conference Association.—Irish Homestead.

Discretion and prudence are common enough, but real courage, the courage to get up and say the unpopular thing in the face of the country, is becoming every day rarer.—Professor Phillimore.

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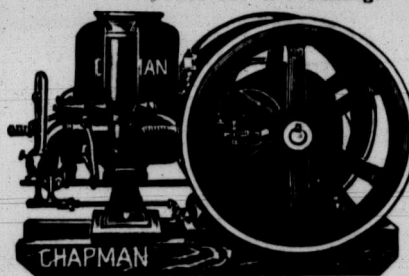


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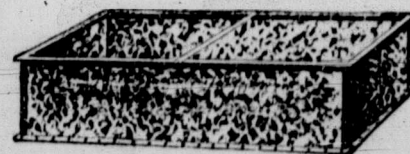


Fig. 3

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