All Ireland Review

Cork Enterprise: Our Industries

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Source: *All Ireland Review*, Vol. 3, No. 8 (Apr. 26, 1902), p. 118

Published by: [All Ireland Review](#)

Stable URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/20546021>

Accessed: 23/06/2014 14:13

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they deliberately squander it, and nobody will have a right to despoil them of in the name of the State or any other unthinkable entity. Please enlighten our ignorance.—
Yours very truly, E. D.

* *

[Dear E. D.—Indeed it is to save your children and their children. I would not, if I could, give you the fee-simple of the land you buy. Secure, untroubled possession of the ground as long as you pay your rent, and the exclusive ownership of your glass-houses, and fruit trees, flowers, and flower-pots, is surely all that you would need in expending your £2,000. I can say no more just now, the necessity for being contemporaneous and newsy being so great. But shall bear all you say in mind when the big subject of “Man and the Earth” again attracts the ruminations of—Yours sincerely, S. O’G.]

A VISIT TO DUNSINK.

ALTHOUGH we have no home government in this country we are at least allowed to strike our own time which we do at our own Observatory at Dunsink, which is situated near Dublin, to the north-west of the Phoenix Park.]

The Observatory itself stands on the top of a rising ground from which a wide view of the surrounding country can be obtained, and is splendidly situated for observing stars which are near the horizon. It consists of an old-fashioned house very neatly kept, for all the world you might think it to be the dwelling of a country gentleman, with its trim lawns, and sheep peacefully grazing on the surrounding fields.

In the lawn, a few yards distant from the house, is the Great Equatorial inside a dome-shaped building, the roof of which has a long slit running from top to bottom, and can revolve so that the great telescope which is within can be changed to any part of the heavens. The telescope itself, the Great Equatorial, is pointed to the pole-star round which all the heavens turn, and has two motions by which it can be directed to any part of the sky. It is a very large one, and was made by Sir Howard Grubb, at his works in Rathmines. It has also got a clock-work arrangement which, when not working, keeps the telescope moving with the stars.

A smaller one is placed in a smaller house on the roof of the Observatory; which is used for obtaining photographs of the heavens.

The fixing of the Irish time is done in a special department behind the house, as follows. A large telescope pointing due-north and south is directed towards that part of the sky which the sun will pass at its highest altitude; the observer watches the sun through the telescope as it passes certain marks placed in his view. As it passes each, he presses a button which makes a dot on a revolving cylinder on which a marker is also making dots every second, being worked by an electric current from a clock. In this way he takes a mean of his observations on the cylinder, and knows the right time to the fraction of a second.

There is a clock, worked by electricity, which is in connection with one in the Engineering School, Trinity College and also one in the Ballast Office, so that these two have exact time with each other and Dunsink.

The whole place is well fitted-up for all observations. There are, of course, other apparatuses which are of too complicated a nature to be described here. The Observatory is well worth a visit for all those who take an interest in the scientific welfare of Ireland.

C. O.

Prepaid Advertisements.

The rates of insertion of prepaid advertisements, viz., 1d. for every 3 words, or part of 3 words; three insertions for the price of two. Advertisements should reach us on Monday to secure insertion in the same week's issue.

CORK ENTERPRISE: OUR INDUSTRIES.

THE straw hat season is now upon us, and, as heretofore, we have had to look to Luton and other centres in England for our supplies, we find it extremely gratifying to discover, owing to the enterprise of a manufacturing firm in Cork, that at last we will be able to get this season's goods, in such an important department of Irish manufacture. This year, if we like, we can get straw hats of Irish manufacture, and made, not in the North of Ireland, but the South, made by the deft fingers of Munster lassies who live and work on the banks of the Lee.

Whoever takes the trouble to go through the figures which here follow will be surprised at the immense nature of the trade in straw hats, which it is in our power to annex and make our own—a part of our national wealth—if only we desire to do so.

We have the opinion of an expert on the subject, and it reveals some astonishing facts in connection with the straw hat trade. In the first place we know there were 952 tons of hats imported into this country last year, of which we may safely assume the proportion of straw was as 1 to 7. This would give us a total of 136 tons of straw hats. We find that 13 dozen of these, with packing, will weigh 2 cwt., and this worked out at 130 dozens per ton, or 17,680 dozens annually. Now, if we calculate the money value of this at 20s. per dozen all round it gives us £17,680 yearly of expenditure, which, if we were only practically patriotic enough, could be kept in Ireland. The Emigration Agent still finds this unfortunate country of ours his happy hunting grounds, and until we realise the importance of keeping every shilling at home that we possibly can, we are very much afraid our friend will still continue to flourish in our midst. Now, let us consider what amount of employment this industry would be likely to give. Every 48 dozen of hats produced would require the services of from six to eight hands, and between every six hands, say, a sum of £7 weekly would have to be spent in wages. Now, imagine what this would amount to where it became a question of turning out thousands of dozens during the season, as we are assured it would require a factory turning out almost 2,000 dozens weekly to meet the home demand during six months of the year. The classes in Ireland should take such lessons as the figures in this article try to show, and endeavour to support the exertions of any firm engaging itself in the laudable and patriotic work of giving employment in their respective centres, by not only asking and insisting upon getting, but inducing any of their friends with whom they had influence to give their support to Irish enterprise. By so doing they will be showing a good example and will have the satisfaction of rescuing their country from being considered one of the commercially dying nations.

The firm to which we refer, the only one in Ireland, so far as we are aware, which makes straw hats, are the Messrs. Dennehy, of Cork. A representative of ours has just returned from an inspection of their manufacturing premises, in which, at much expense, they have been recently putting down additional plant so as to be ready for the increased demand which they hope will be forthcoming this year. He is of opinion that for material, workmanship, and price, it would not be easy to beat the work turned out by this firm. At all events, when our readers go south to the Exhibition, we think they ought to at least call and see whether our representative is right in what he tells us.

VIDETTE.

[DEAR VIDETTE,—When I was a boy and living in this county, the countrymen in summer used to wear straw hats, which were plaited and woven by the fingers of their own wives and sisters. Indeed, it was an art very generally known, and must have saved the people a great deal of money, for the hats were real straw—the produce of their own fields. When I go south I shall take your advice and get myself one of the Messrs. Dennehy's straw hats if for no other reason, for the honour of the great Irish County where I first saw the sun.—Ed.]

MURRAY'S MELLOW MIXTURE

FOR OVER 80 YEARS THE

Irish National Smoking Mixture.