# Making Tomorrow's World

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## THE NEW ECONOMIC IRELAND

Dray, Ireland —The plowed field takes the place of the grazing lands Lord Iordism dies, though by slow degrees and painfully, the last thought being of a bargain to be made." Progressive agriculture, including co-operation, rural credit, usable transportation ways, small local industries and well-directed education — without which there can be no progress agriculture of the best kind —women in Ireland. The singing and dancing Gaelic league, with its revival of the old and happy Irish language, flourishes life and stirs laughter. All these are making for the new Ireland.

**Land Situation Improving.**

The spade is ever mightier than the sword. Impassioned oratory is flocking while street is futile compared with the use of fertilizer in the field. Ireland is pre-eminently agricultural and the chief emphasis in the island's renaissance has rightly been upon the use of the land. Progress has been made toward the transfer of ownership of land from the absentee landlord to the resident peasant. Progress has been made in the establishment for all Ireland of the Ulster custom of free sale, fixity of tenure and fair rent. Considerable progress has been made in blotting out the plague spot to which Western Ireland has given a name which is also a picture, rural "congested districts." Progress has been accomplished by the Irish Agricultural Organization society, led by that disinterested patriot, Sir Horace Plunkett, by the government do-

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partment of agriculture and by other agencies.

**Two-Thirds of Pripole Farmers.**

Ireland is limited chiefly to grass of pervasive. In a population of four million Some four rural classes, laborers and farm laborers and their families, are two-thirds. This number is increasing directly for its daily bite upon the profit from three hundred acres of cultivable land in continental Europe the peasant driven by hunger from the land goes to the factory in the town. Ireland is believed to be free from industrialism, with its beer, its filth and its misery. In some sections of Ireland there are no large factories of consequence. The Irish peasant who can not pick up a living on the fields goes not to a factory in the town, but to America.

A venture was launched of the population of the rural districts of Ireland was in the industrial centers. In the land, and as the population of the rural districts declined, the population of the industrial centers increased. Between the years 1841 and 1911 the population of Belfast increased from 75,000 to 387,000, Dublin from 232,000 to 304,000, Cork from 80,000 to 76,000, Limerick from 49,000 to 38,000, Waterford from 28,000 to 26,000, Galway from 16,000 to 13,000. The population of Ireland was in the industrial centers. Belfast, Dublin, Cork, Limerick, Waterford and Galway, in 1841, was 27 per cent of the emigrants from Ireland remained under the British flag.

**Sir Horace Plunkett's Crusade.**

Improvement in the land situation, besides checking emigration, has promoted the economic and social welfare of the people. Wide-flee of self-help and co-operation, under the disinterested leadership of Sir Horace Plunkett, is making a new Ireland, agriculturally. Returning from ranch life in the United States in 1889, instead of entering politics as the most useful sphere of activity, this great Irishman devoted himself to the social and economic regeneration of rural Ireland. Around him gathered men of all creeds and every party. Cath olic bishops and Presbyterian preachers, Unionists and Nationalists, landlords and tenants soon enlisted in the work. It was difficult, but impossible, to make a theological or even a political controversy about better bacon and more eggs.

**Self-help and Cooperation Winning.**

Self-help was first in the programme. Education must precede self-help. "You can not have a nation without the elements of a nation," said another great Irishman, Thomas Davis, "and one of the first elements of a nation is an educated democracy." As everywhere else, this was slow and difficult. The Irish man, not different from others, preferred to be helped rather than to be helped. Gradually, however, self-help dormant had their fruits, and better agricultural methods, in larger and better stock and desirable rural life.

The Irish Agricultural Organization society was formed to teach self-help and co-operation in the plainest way to which Western Ireland has given a name which is also a picture, rural "congested districts." Progress has been accomplished by the Irish Agricultural Organization society, led by that disinterested patriot, Sir Horace Plunkett, by the government do-

ions have been enrolled in some form of cooperative society.

**Buying and Selling Gone Jointly.**

The most general form of cooperation is the dairy society. Of these societies there are now more than four hundred. Next in number are the rural banks, which number more than two hundred. Other cooperative organizations make joint purchases for farmers, breed cattle, promote local industries, particularly lace-making, sell poultry and eggs, grow bees and market honey, sell butter and transact wholesale business for the country societies. The central society and creameries are added financially by the government department of agriculture, agricultural committees and county councils.

**Cooperation Stopping Emigration.**

The result shows in economic betterment and in a more wholesome rural life. A single instance of the first result is that the yield per hundred per gallon of milk has constantly increased during the last few years and that Irish butter now sells readily in London in competition with that of Australia, butter from Denmark. From certain counties where the cooperative societies have done their best work emigration has almost ceased. Much has been done toward improving the condition of the cottages and by establishing libraries, sane amusements and helpful recreation in the villages. The Gaelic league has done good service here. "Better be quarreling than be lonesome," runs the Irish proverb. The new village conditions would banish quarreling without sacrificing sociable, accomplishing this result by discouraging drunkenness and promoting emigration, the two giant evils of the Ireland of yesterday.

Another happy result is the moral discipline already manifest in the new Ireland. The old elements of a nation," said another great Irishman, Thomas Davis, "and one of the first elements of a nation is an educated democracy." As everywhere else, this was slow and difficult. The Irish man, not different from others, preferred to be helped rather than to be helped. Gradually, however, self-help dormant had their fruits, and better agricultural methods, in larger and better stock and desirable rural life.

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