

Glimpses of the Emerald Isle

(This is one of a series of articles written by Mason Rossiter Smith, special correspondent in Europe for the National Editorial Association of which the Times is a member. Others will appear in these columns from time to time. Editor)

On the train trip from Dublin to Belfast you pass across the border from Eire (pronounced AYruh) into Northern Ireland, the latter a part of Great Britain, and the customs are severe. To protect its own supplies, Eire prohibits the export of foods and other necessities, and all baggage is examined by the Eireann authorities before you cross into Northern Ireland, where you are examined again. Since foodstuffs and clothing are in short supply in Northern Ireland and Scotland, and as "spirits" (whiskey, etc.) are less expensive in Eire than across the border, there is a strong temptation among the travellers to smuggle goods across.

On our train there were many Irish laborers enroute to work on farms in Scotland, where labor is short, and all of these men carried a box. At the border, the South Ireland authorities took from them hundreds of pounds of butter, eggs and other foodstuffs the men were carrying to Scotland, where they anticipated less available food.

The strongest impression one obtains in the Emerald Isle, is the feeling which exists concerning what the Irish in Eire call the "Partition of Ireland." When Lloyd George settled the Irish question with Eamon DeValera, the Irish leader, it was finally decided that Eire should comprise some 27,000 square miles, by far the major portion of the island, while Northern Ireland, which now has a parliament of its own, would be made up of six northern counties, about 5200 square miles, including the large city of Belfast. The reason for this was principally religious, for in Eire, the population is about 93 per cent Catholic, while in the north the predominant religion is Protestant, principally Presbyterian. The political cleavage in the island is

primarily on the line of religion.

In Dublin, I had visited the Dail Eireann, the Irish parliament (the floor of the Dail is shielded from the visitors gallery, where I sat, by a heavy wire, much like a baseball backstop, to "prevent people from tossing in bombs," as one chap informed me). It was the question session, and the deputies were questioning Prime Minister DeValera on the possibilities of including Northern Ireland in Eire.

But on the other side of the border, the attitude is quite as strongly opposed to union with Eire, as Eire is for it. The Northern Irishman feels that Eire "let the Empire down" by not joining in the war with Britain, and there seems to be some doubt as to just where Eire stands.

Southern Ireland has abolished allegiance to the King ("The very foundation of all our personal loyalties" as a Northern Irishman described it), but on the other hand, the British King signs the credentials of all the diplomats of Eire. "We feel," he said, "—and DeValera has confirmed it in his own words—that Eire is a part of the Empire only in so far as she can use us. If it profits her to work with us, she does. But she accepts no other loyalty."

Belfast, the great industrial city of the north famed for its shipbuilding yards and its linen, shows signs of the war. She got it in the "blitz," though not as badly as many cities in England. One whole city block went up in one blast—it is now only an empty space, used for a public parking lot and open-air market, the buildings adjacent to it chipped and marked by bomb fragments. In another section of the city, the "Jerries" missed their aim on the shipyards and spilled their bombs on workers' homes. The shells of some of these are still standing, though most of the debris has been taken away. It is an occasional but strange sight, on a street car (tram) ride throughout the city, now and then to see the grim charred shell of a house, the window frames all blown in and only a portion of the walls standing.

Oregon Boys Win Craft Awards



Johnson

Hanberg

Bamberg

OREGON WILL be represented by three of its best boy craftsmen when regional award winners in the 1947 competition of the Fisher Body Craftsmen's Guild assemble in Detroit August 19-22 to compete for eight university scholarships, valued from \$2,000 to \$5,000. The trio includes Ronald Johnson, 5102 N.E. 60th Avenue, Portland, who won the first place junior award, and Louis Hanberg, 5424 North Warren Street, Portland, who took senior

division honors in the model car design competition, and James Bamberg, 2570 N.E. 32nd Avenue, Portland, who won first place in the Napoleonic Coach competition. Hanberg, a regional award winner in 1946, is making a second try for a university scholarship. An educational organization sponsored by General Motors, the Craftsman's Guild encourages the development of creative ability, handiwork and craftsmanship among 'teen-age boys.

the grass and flowers growing up in between.

The fuel crisis, felt severely in Britain, is equally severe in this land, for all of Ireland is dependent on Britain for coal. The Irish railroads have had to curtail their operations, and all local residents are urged to curb the use of electricity and coal. A sign in your hotel bathroom reminds you to use as little hot water as possible for "water means fuel."

A campaign for waste paper is constantly underway and all people are urged to preserve the "contents of your dustbin." Waste paper is converted into wallboard, cardboard and wrapping paper. The seriousness of the situation is best described by two huge signs in the main thoroughfare of Belfast: "Waste Paper is in Urgent Demand. One Ton of Waste Paper Will Make Ceiling Board for 12 Houses" and "Waste Paper and Still More Waste Paper is Required for Total Employment in Local Paper Mills."

Food is plentiful and varied in the hotels, but private homes are subject to strict rationing—two to four eggs per person per month, half a pound of meat per person per week.

ALBANY COUPLE BUILDING SUMMER HOME ON NESTUCCA

Mr. and Mrs. Jessie Savage of Albany were in Willamina on business Tuesday, connected with the building of their new summer home on the Little Nestucca river on the road out from Dolph. Mr. Savage has a cold storage plant in Albany.

DURHAM HOME NEARS COMPLETION STAGE

Work is progressing rapidly on the new home Mr. and Mrs. Roy E. Durham are building two miles northwest of Willamina and they expect to move into it soon. Located on a hill in a natural forest setting that requires little or no landscaping, the site affords a magnificent view from the picture windows in the living room. The Yamhill valley as far as McMinnville can be seen plainly.

Guests for a couple of days this week at the W. T. Stone home were Len Jolly of Long Beach, California, and the Munson brothers of Sacramento, all outboard racing drivers.

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